

Arab wheat imports to continue

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab demand for wheat is expected to rise by 4.5 million tonnes to 37 million tonnes a year by the year 2000, more than double the region's production, the Dubai Chamber of Commerce said Friday. Arab states produced about 10.3 million tonnes of wheat in 1980 and the total was expected to reach 17.5 million tonnes by the end of the century, the chamber said in a report. "Arab countries are still largely dependent on imports for their food needs, with wheat and coarse grain imports currently standing at \$15 billion," it said. "With the estimated year-2000 levels of production and consumption, Arab food self-sufficiency will not exceed 47.3 per cent." But the report said some states, such as Saudi Arabia, had managed to attain self-sufficiency. Production in Iraq was expected to reach 93.6 per cent of domestic demand by 2000. It said Tunisia, Libya and Sudan were expected to meet between 79 and 89 per cent of their local wheat needs by then. The report marks Arab Food Day on July 16. The 1984 Arab grain conference in Amman set the date as a reminder of the vast gap between production and demand in the region.

Jordan Times

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SADCC reviews options

MAPUTO (AP) — Leaders of nine southern African nations heard a somber keynote speech Friday during a one-day summit conference focusing on how to reduce economic dependence on South Africa. Quett Masire, president of Botswana and chairman of the South African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), said in his address: "The promise of political independence is progressively turning into a nightmare." He said high population growth was causing high unemployment and preventing economic gains by the nine conference members — Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Two other speakers, presidents Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, accused South Africa of seeking to destabilise its black-ruled neighbours and hamper their quest for economic self-reliance. "Lasting peace will continue to elude our region until apartheid comes to an end in South Africa," Mugabe said. At the conclusion of the summit, the participants issued a joint communiqué calling for increased trade among the member nations and urging South Africa's government to concede that apartheid "is doomed to failure."

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Canadian delegation in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — A Canadian delegation arrived in Tehran Friday for talks with Iranian officials on normalising relations. Tehran Radio reported. The radio gave no details. Tehran and Ottawa last month started talks on improving diplomatic ties soured in 1980 when Canada withdrew its diplomats from Tehran after they spirited six U.S. diplomats out of Iran.

PLO Central Council to meet in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Central Council will meet in Baghdad next week to discuss Syrian support for a Palestinian splinter group that routed Fatah fighters in Beirut, according to a spokesman for the organisation. Bassam Abu Sharif, spokesman for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the AP that the meeting will also focus on the developments in the uprising on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli minister threatens to quit

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Nissim threatened to resign Friday over a wage settlement offered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to striking doctors who have crippled health services. Nissim aides said. Shamir has been unable to persuade Nissim to drop his opposition to the settlement, which would give doctors an extra five per cent for operations performed during overtime.

Iranians turned back at Cyprus checkpoint

NICOSIA (R) — A group of Iranians believed to be refugees were turned back when they tried to cross into government-controlled south Cyprus from the breakaway northern republic, the government said Friday. About a dozen people thought to be from one family had tried to cross from the Turkish-Cypriot north to the Greek-Cypriot south through the British base at Dhekelia, officials said. The incident happened last week but was only disclosed Friday.

Rajiv Gandhi visits Spain

MADRID (AP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India arrived in Madrid Friday on a two-day official visit to Spain. Gandhi and his wife, Sonia, were greeted at the airport by Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez. The foreign minister told reporters that the visit held "great importance" for both countries "due to the possibilities of increasing trade."

Tories hold seat in by-election boost

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party emerged narrow victors Friday from a parliamentary by-election test which the opposition Labour Party also claimed as a boost to its fortunes. A strong performance from the Labour candidate slashed the Conservative majority from 4,447 in last year's general election to only 815 votes in Thursday's ballot for the London seat of Kensington. Conservative candidate Dudley Fishburn polled 9,829 votes.

3 UAE airbus victims flown home

DUBAI (R) — The bodies of three United Arab Emirates (UAE) citizens killed when the United States cruiser Vincennes shot down an Iranian Airbus over the Gulf July 3 have been flown home, airport officials said Friday. The bodies of Badreya Al Shada, 25, Fatima Amin, 46, and her 11-year-old daughter Sameen were brought to Dubai Thursday night from Tehran where 14 other UAE victims have been buried, they said.

'Airliner downing disrupts hostage talks'

BEIRUT (AP) — The U.S. navy's downing of an Iranian jetliner interrupted alleged U.S.-Iranian talks on the release of American hostages in Lebanon, the magazine Al Shira reported Friday. It said the talks between "American and Iranian negotiators... were held in a European country and covered many details." The report said: "A number of American hostages were to be released in south Beirut in return for a public change in the American political stand on the Gulf war in favour of Iran."

Dutch prime minister to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, the first foreign head of government to visit Israel since the Palestinian uprising began in the occupied territories, will relay his government's criticism of Israel's handling of the rebellion, a Dutch official said Friday. "The uprising will certainly be an important topic of discussion during the prime minister's visit. He will relay the concerns of the Dutch people and listen very carefully to Israeli leaders," Dutch Ambassador Jan Van Roijen said in an interview. Van Roijen said the three-day visit, which begins Sunday, was initially planned in October but Lubbers delayed it for several months because of the uprising.

Turkish forces search for rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — More than 1,000 troops scoured mountain slopes in southeast Turkey Friday for Kurdish rebels who killed two soldiers in a two-day clash, sources in the area said. Soldiers helped by hundreds of civilian village guards fanned out across Cudi Mountain, near Sirnak in Sirt province, in their hunt for rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). The sources said the fighting, which broke out Wednesday, seemed to die down after sporadic exchanges of fire early Friday. Troops backed by helicopters began their search around noon on the mountain, about 30 kilometres north of the Iraqi and Syrian borders.

New Niger premier named

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — General Ali Saibou Friday named a new premier and 12 new ministers in the second government shuffle since Niger's leader came to power in November, authorities announced. Saibou conferred the premiership on Niger's Ambassador to Canada Mamane Oumarou, a former premier and ambassador to Canada since October. He replaces Hamid Al Gaidi, named secretary general to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC). Nine ministers were removed, including Foreign Minister Sani Bako. He was replaced by Aliou Elhadji Habibou, who headed the ministry of mines and energy in the previous government, the announcement said.

Evren returns home from visit to Britain

ANKARA (R) — President Kenan Evren returned to Turkey Friday after a four-day state visit to Britain. He was the first Turkish head of state to visit Britain since 1967.

Greece hopes for full ties with Israel

ATHENS (R) — Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias said Thursday he hoped for an improvement in the situation in the Israeli occupied territories so Greece could move towards full diplomatic relations with Israel. "I hope for better moments in the future which will help the Greek government to pursue its road to normalisation of relations with Israel," he told reporters.

Expatriates back policy of 'open bridges'

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — Representatives here of about one million Jordanian expatriates have given their full backing to the Kingdom's "open bridges" policy with the occupied territories and to Jordan's proposal to set up an Arab rapid deployment force to confront challenges to the Arab Nation. A statement drafted by expatriates attending the conference praised Jordan's "effective role on the local, Arab and international levels in support of the Palestinian people's intifada against Israeli occupation practices." They paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein's continuous efforts towards convening a U.N.-sponsored international peace conference on the Middle East attended by all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

No specific Shultz plan to visit Mideast

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — State Department deputy spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Thursday that she did not know of specific plans for Secretary of State George Shultz to visit the Middle East, including Lebanon. "We have no specific plans on something like that," she told a questioner at a press briefing. She pointed out, however, that Shultz "has made it clear that he is ready to go back to the area when his visit would encourage and promote his initiative to bring about Middle Eastern peace."

Asked about the Middle East peace plan, Shultz has been pursuing since January, Oakley said: "He has talked about it as a plan, as a whole; it's on the table. I certainly have no indication that there is going to be a change in that." The prime minister of Kuwait said Wednesday that Shultz would make a fifth trip to the Middle East this year to push his plan for Arab-Israeli negotiations. Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah wished Shultz well. The prime minister called for establishment of a Palestinian state and for participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the negotiations. Sheikh Saad, who is also crown prince of Kuwait, said the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza was "a strong exhibition of the determination of the Palestinians to regain their freedom."

Greece says Frenchman among ferry attackers

ATHENS (R) — The Greek government said Friday a Frenchman was probably part of the guerrilla group that carried out an attack on a Greek tourist ship this week, killing nine people and wounding 80. Merchant Marine Minister Evangelos Yampopoulos told reporters a Frenchman suspected of being a guerrilla died in Monday's attack on board the City of Poros, which carried 471 passengers.

There are still three bodies whose identity has yet to be confirmed. They are two men and a woman. One man must be French and by all indications he was a terrorist," Yampopoulos told reporters. He did not elaborate. The first secretary of the French embassy in Athens, Pierre Robion, told Reuters he had nothing to say at present. "At this point we have no evidence. The identification (of the body) is still going on," Robion said.

The body of a Frenchwoman was formally identified Thursday night as 21-year-old Isabelle Bismuth, who was earlier mistakenly identified as a guerrilla. She is now acknowledged to have been an innocent victim. Greek state-run television said Thursday that police believed another guerrilla identified as Zozah Mohammad may have been killed when two powerful explosions rocked the boat during the open-sea assault. Zozah has been the focus of a manhunt.

The television, quoting state security sources, said the possibility arose after experts examined the ship. There has been no official confirmation of the television report. More French passengers were wounded in the attack than any other nationality, with the official toll 34 injured and one dead — Bismuth. If a French guerrilla was confirmed among the dead he would be a second French

fatality. The French Foreign Ministry in Paris has no comment on the Greek statement. A spokesman would only say that, with so many French people on board, other French nationals could be among victims not so far identified.

Identification of the corpses has been difficult because fire ravaged the upper deck of the City of Poros, mutilating several victims. Police sources have said four or five guerrillas joined in the assault as the ship approached the port at Trocadero near Athens after a one-day island cruise.

Greece has mounted a nationwide manhunt to track down the guerrillas, some of whom were thought to have escaped in the confusion as fire swept the upper decks and passengers leapt overboard in panic.

The seven-nation pact would concentrate on proposals to reduce air and ground forces in Europe, officials from the East and West said. The gathering of Communist Party chiefs could also provide an opportunity for member states to resolve bilateral disputes including a public row between Hungary and Romania. There was speculation that Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu and Hungary's Karoly Grosz would meet at the end of the summit to discuss their bitter dispute over Romania's treatment of its ethnic Hungarian minority.

Conference supports call for Arab army

The King has proposed setting up an Arab rapid deployment force to defend Arab soil and protect Arab interests anywhere in the Arab World.

He has said the Jordanian Armed Forces would be honoured to serve within the ranks of the called-for force. In remarks to dignitaries and officials at the southern town of Tafieh in May, the King renewed the call and said: "Let us hope that the near future will witness the birth of the rapid deployment force which would serve as a nucleus of an Arab army that can offer proper defence for the Arab homeland."

The expatriate conference's backing for the "open bridges" policy came in the wake of the Algiers Arab summit conference which backed Jordan's role in supporting the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied territories and named the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan repeatedly emphasised that it had no intention to represent the Palestinian people at a proposed international conference but that it was ready to attend such a conference within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said last month that Jordan had special economic and social considerations and interests in strengthening the steadfastness of the people in the occupied lands.

"Partial and bilateral issues may very well be handled between the PLO and Israel if an international peace conference is convened," the Crown Prince said, "but there remains the demographic dimension."

He stressed that Jordan "never sought a monopoly on economic development programmes for the occupied territories and that the Kingdom had called for an international programme with the involvement of international parties as well as other Arab states."

Recommendations issued at the end of the expatriates conference called for the development of the Kingdom's free zones, the backing of the industrial cities corporation, increasing the efficiency of the financial and monetary markets and the establishment of a central corporation to be specialised in carrying out sectoral economic studies.

Participants also welcomed the idea of establishing a Jordan-based national university to accommodate more expatriates' children and resident and Arab students.

With the INF accord settled, attention has shifted to long-stalled talks to reduce conventional forces in Europe. Gorbachev has indicated that would be a top item on the Warsaw Pact leaders' agenda.

A commentary Thursday in the official Polish daily Zycie Warszawy said the meeting should "point out the Warsaw Pact's priorities in disarmament."

Conventional arms talks resume in Vienna this fall. Gorbachev suggested in Poland Monday that informal talks be held to search for a starting point that could lead to progress.

"Poland and the USSR, as parties to the Warsaw Pact, attach special importance to the quickest possible inauguration of negotiations on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe," said a joint Polish-Soviet communiqué.

The pact groups the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria.

Israeli army orders W. Bank schools closed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities Friday ordered the closure of all 1,200 schools in the occupied West Bank next week in an attempt to curb Palestinian student protests.

The army meanwhile kept more than 80,000 West Bank residents under curfew and ringed mosques in Gaza City to prevent demonstrations by worshippers at Friday prayers.

Palestinian sources said the Israeli "civil administration" for the West Bank ordered that final examinations would start Saturday and all schools would close next Thursday in a move to stop demonstrations and clashes between troops and pupils.

Israel reopened the schools only in June, after closures of up to five months, and extended the term until mid-August to allow the 300,000 students more time to study for examinations.

Israeli and Palestinian sources said authorities decided to end schooling for the academic year next week because of continued student protests.

But an Israeli spokesman said authorities were merely ending the academic year early.

He said the move was "a technical decision" unrelated to the seven-month-old uprising which has drawn much of its support from teenagers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A total of 231 Palestinians have died in the uprising.

A United Nations official said Friday refugees in Gaza were suffering cash shortages because the extended Israeli-imposed curfews and strikes have kept workers from their jobs.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported the military closures of camps in the strip have disrupted food supplies.

But the official, who insisted on anonymity, told the AP most U.N. supply trucks had been able to continue their deliveries and no one was going hungry in the strip, where 650,000 Palestinians live.

An 18-year-old Palestinian boy, meanwhile, was shot in the left leg Friday when soldiers clashed with worshippers leaving prayers at a mosque in the Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, a local reporter said.

The protesters hurled rocks at the troops, who used live ammunition, wounding the man, who was identified as Ayman Taha, a local reporter said.

Late Thursday night, an 11-year-old boy was shot in the leg in the Shati refugee camp in Gaza. Soldiers Friday confined residents to their homes in most of the West Bank city of Nablus, the town of Qalqilya and the villages of Beit Sour, Anabta and 'Ain Yabrud, an army spokesman said.

Nablus was put under curfew late Wednesday after the deaths of two boys shot by troops. Jewish settlers raided Qalqilya the same night after a Jewish boy was injured by stone-throwers.

Friday was the ninth consecutive day of curfew for the 7,000 people in Beit Sour. The village was closed when residents demonstrated against an army raid to collect taxes.

United States naval fleet must leave the Gulf waters without delay." In his remarks, Britain's John Birch said the disaster would not have occurred but for the nearly

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. warship goes to aid tanker under gunboat attack

BAHRAIN (R) — A U.S. warship went to the aid of a Liberian-flag tanker under fire from gunboats in the central Gulf Friday but arrived well after the attackers had left, the tanker's captain said.

It was the second time in four days the U.S. navy had gone to help a ship under attack off Farsi Island, a long-time Iranian gunboat base.

George Logares, captain of the 85,989-tonne Sea Victory, told Reuters by ship-to-shore radio a "big American warship and a helicopter" sped to his position about eight kilometres off Farsi. Logares said the gunboats launched a hit-and-run attack from the island. "They fired at us and ran back to Farsi. I'm sure they came from there," he said.

The raid with rocket-propelled grenades started a small fire in the accommodation quarters, but the crew quickly brought it under control, the captain said. There were no casualties. Shipping agents in the region said they heard the Sea Victory call for American assistance. A U.S. officer responded immediately and said a warship was on its way.

Bnt Logares said the gunboats were "long gone" by the time the warship and a helicopter arrived.

The Sea Victory was heading in ballast for Kuwait. One shipping expert in the Gulf questioned the captain's choice of route. "He was asking for it. He should have sailed out of Iran's exclusive zone and closer to the Saudi shore," the expert said. Iran declared a 12-mile exclusive zone around Farsi in 1984.

Iran withdraws from Haj Omran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran has staged a new troop withdrawal from northeast Iraq as Baghdad's forces tightened their grip on the southern front after occupying an Iranian border town.

Tehran's official IRNA news agency said Thursday Iranian forces had pulled back from the Kurdish Haj Omran area in northeast Iraq as part of a new strategy aimed at a "more appropriate deployment of combat forces in other defensive lines."

On Tuesday, Iran evacuated the Halabja plain south of Haj Omran and was driven out of the Zubeidat border area on the southern front, the latest in a series of battlefield reverses.

The latest pullout means Iran has now given up almost all the Iraqi territory it occupied in the eight-year war.

Military supreme Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Wednesday the withdrawals were part of a new strategy of preparing for a prolonged war and showing the world Iran did not want to seize and keep Iraqi territory.

Rafsanjani, speaking on Iranian television, said the new approach was dictated by recent Iraqi advances made possible by all-out support for Baghdad by its

foreign backers. "After studying the new situation, it seemed changes in our defensive lines were necessary," he said.

Iran said its troops pushed through Zubeidat Tuesday, seizing 4,000 square kilometres of territory, and occupied the town of Dehloran, 30 kilometres inside Iran, Wednesday.

A member of the Iraqi high command, Lieutenant-General Ni'ma Faris Hussein, said on Baghdad television Iraqi forces would withdraw across the border within a few days.

Hammadi in Moscow

In another development, the visit by a top Iraqi leader to Moscow has failed to overcome the Soviets' opposition to an international arms embargo against Iran, Soviet and Iraqi officials said Thursday.

"We don't have any radical changes in our position," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilov told a government news briefing.

Saoudun Hammadi, president of Iraq's National Council and a member of its Revolutionary Command Council, told reporters earlier that differences in views between his country and the Kremlin remained.

Ajlouni outlines tourism reforms

AMMAN (Petra) — Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni has outlined new duties for travel and tourist offices in an attempt to develop and revive tourism in the country.

These changes come in light of new authority given to them according to a new law, which considers the offices as channels for tourist distribution, sales and marketing.

Addressing directors of various travel and tourist offices, in an open dialogue session, Ajlouni voiced the government's interest in developing the tourist industry, saying that this interest was translated in "the creation of a Tourism Ministry and in the enactment of the new tourist law."

The new tourist law includes an updated description of the duties assigned to tourist offices, giving recent developments and changes in the tourist industry.

The law also gave the ministry wider authorities to define tourist sites and the right to supervise the tourist and hotel training institutes and to upgrade their supervisory efficiency.

The law encouraged internal tourism and encouraged new tourist policies for developing methods of marketing and promotion in cooperation with directors of the Royal Jordanian offices abroad.

Ajlouni said that the ministry's workplan provides for giving equal treatment to tourists and citizens and stresses the importance of providing excellent services at reasonable prices.

He also stressed the need for concentrating on available resources.

Ajlouni proposed a joint plan of action for both the ministry and the tourist and travel offices in a bid to expand scope of participation.

The proposal called for appointing directors of the Royal Jordanian abroad, as representatives of the Tourism Ministry, because of their experience, and for establishing a joint marketing and promotion fund.

It also called for coordinating the participation of the travel and tourist agents in tourist exhibitions, conferences, and other occasions.

The proposal also included a call for promoting tourism through promotional material, informational literature, workshops, seminars and symposiums on marketing of tourism.

The proposal further called for reviewing the rules and criteria for classifying hotels and restaurants and updating the regulations of the various tourist activities.

The final proposal was to set up an institute to look after the handicraft and traditional industries.

During a talk he gave at the Civil Defence Department headquarters, Abanda said space scientists are aware of the danger and have brought together a team of scientists to study the causes that led to the ozone layer's decrease in the South Pole and other areas, as well as the effects

of that decrease.

Abanda's talk was one of the cultural activities going on at the Civil Defence Department.

Abanda said the team's findings show that a pollution increase in outer space, induced by man and by missiles launched from space, is the main reason behind what he called a hole in the ozone layer in the South Pole. He added that the hole may spread.

He explained that this decrease leads to other weather phenomena, most important of which are an increase in temperature which causes ice and snow to melt thereby raising the water level in oceans. He said the hole can also cause temperatures to decrease to a level which may bring the earth into a new ice age.

He added that the ozone layer helps curb the level of infra-red rays from the sun, limiting it to 2 per cent, a number which if increased would expose humans to skin cancer and would kill animals and plants.

Attending the lecture was the director of the Civil Defence Department, his assistants and a number of high ranking officials at the department.

10:20 The Equalizer Video Games

11:10 Fawly Towers

Mon. — July 18, 1988

8:30 Perfect Strangers

9:10 I Shall Never Lose Hope

One part special Doc.

A documentary film about the life of Nelson Mandela and his struggle in South Africa for the establishment of a democratic state where citizens of all races can co-exist.

10:20 Movie of the Week

Sweet As You Are

Starring: Liam Neeson, Miranda Richardson

Marital deception happens all the time. Now it is deadly. Martin Perry is a polytechnic lecturer who has an affair with one of his students. What he did not know is that she used drugs. What neither of them knew was that she was

Al Hussein congratulates France

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to French President Francois Mitterrand congratulating him on his country's National Day and wishing him and the French people further progress and prosperity.

King Hussein voiced satisfaction at the steadily improving relations between Jordan and France and praised the French efforts to support prospects for peace in the region.

King Hussein stressed his confidence that France, under the wise leadership of Mitterrand, will pursue its efforts to help establish peace in the region.

Khasawneh briefs American teachers

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Hani Khasawneh Thursday briefed a visiting delegation of teaching staff from 13 American universities, on Jordan's principled policy and its national stand towards the Palestine question and His Majesty King Hussein's role in serving the cause of peace and his search for stability.

Khasawneh stressed the need

Abanda: Ozone hole is giant threat

AMMAN (Petra) — Over the past several years, the ozone content in the ozone layer has decreased, reaching a dangerous level in 1985, especially around the South Pole, Director of the Meteorology Department Ali Abanda said Thursday.

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UNICEF cable

King Hussein Thursday received a cable from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Director James Grant congratulating him on Jordan's great achievement in the field of reducing infant mortality rate (IMR) by more than half.

In his cable, Grant said that Jordan's recent achievement puts it at the forefront of the world's countries which seek to promote child survival and development and turns Jordan into a bright example and a source of inspiration for several world countries.

Grant noted that Jordan's reduction of IMR from 75 per one thousand live births in 1980 to 35 per one thousand in 1986, places Jordan on top of the Arab countries, which have committed to reduce by half their respective infant mortality rates by the year 1990.

These results were determined from a field study carried out by teams from the Ministry of Health and UNICEF during May and June 1988. However, survey results have been verified by the London School of Health Sciences and Tropical Medicine, Grant concluded.

Also Thursday the delegation visited Salt and were briefed on a number of touristic and historical sites. The Balqa' governor briefed the delegation on Salt's importance in every respect.

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CROWN PRINCE THANKS DAJANI: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has sent a cable of thanks to Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, in appreciation of the efforts made by the minister and the governors and district officers during Jordan's celebrations of the Great Arab Revolt in June. Prince Hassan said that this year's preparations were unique in their planning and organisation and were commensurate with the importance of that dear occasion.

FAYEZ MEETS SPANISH ENVOY: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez Thursday discussed bilateral relations with Spanish Ambassador to Amman Ramon Armengod.

TUNISIAN ENVOY HONOURED: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Thursday decorated the outgoing Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Said Ibn Mustafa with Jordan's Independence Medal of the First Order, which was conferred upon him by His Majesty King Hussein in appreciation of his efforts to promote and enhance relations between his country and Jordan.

TIES WITH SWEDEN: Public Works and Housing Minister Engineer Shafiq Zawaideh Thursday discussed bilateral cooperation with Swedish Ambassador Lars Lonnback.

MEDIA TEAM IN IRAQ: A Jordanian media delegation Wednesday left Amman for Baghdad to cover the Iraqi victories in Al Zubaidat region. The delegation was composed of Information Ministry Advisor Subail Matalqah, Fayez Al Qudab from the Department of Press and Publication, Fares Shar'an and Mahmoud Jabbar from Jordan News Agency, and Mahmoud Muhareh.

Spectators complain of crowd control problem at Jerash Festival opening

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The site of the Jerash ruins glittered with the birth of another festival Wednesday while Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor officially opened the 7th cultural extravaganza. But at the South Gate of the city, Jordanians and foreign residents of the Kingdom were treated to a completely different show — of rough behaviour, insensitivity and high handed action.

Complaints poured in to reporters from people from all walks of life, ranging from ambassadors who were officially invited to the opening ceremony, and spectators who carried their tickets to the first opera to be held in Jerash, to the general public who just wanted to renew their alliance with the activities of the festival.

"I was afraid, horrified, I thought I was at a military zone, not a cultural event," said a Jordanian woman who arrived at the site 20 minutes before the opening of the opera as she described her experience with the guards at the gate of the festival. She told the Jordan Times that she saw an ambassador's wife in Amman "being physically shoved back by security officers guarding the gate," yet the lady was holding an official invitation to the opening ceremony and the opera in her hand, and all she "was trying to find out was why they were being held back." An ambassador to Jordan was treated to verbal abuse and "was almost hit," the young Jordanian said. The Jordanian woman admitted that there was chaos at the entrance, "there were no organised line up," but she maintained that there was absolutely no need for the violence.

Most of the people interviewed by the Jordan Times maintained that their feeling was the security guards were "insufficiently trained for crowd control," everybody agreed that the behaviour of the guards at the first day of the festival was a clear example of "unnecessary physical and verbal abuse," and a far cry from what one expects at Jordan's premiere national cultural event.

An eyewitness described to the Jordan Times how one of the guards "took off his belt and started hitting people with it, regardless of who they were and what they were doing," another witness said that some of the guards carried the steel barriers at the gate and shoved people back with them.

The pushing, shouting and

threatening were eventually discovered to be without reason, "I thought that Their Majesties were still inside and that this behaviour and attitude were security measures to protect the Royal Family, but we finally found out that everybody had left," one person who was there told the Jordan Times.

The obvious question was why were the guards so adamant to prevent people from entering the site. According to an eye-witness, "there was absolutely no explanation, all we were told was to go back, and in many cases those who tried to know more were called abusive names."

This reporter, who arrived one hour before the opening ceremony, was looking for the seats designated for reporters when one guard came over and said: "It is late, leave this place immediately or you will get into trouble." Other senior Jordanian editors said they received the same rough treatment by both uniformed and plain-clothed security personnel.

Local reporters were grouped together in a corner for one hour before the beginning of the opening ceremony, due to "security reasons," and all were satisfied that it was proper procedure, but words of dissatisfaction started spreading among them when five minutes before the opening ceremony foreign reporters were escorted by Foreign Ministry officials to their designated seats in the Jordanian ministers' area.

A Jerash Festival official reached by the Jordan Times Friday, denied responsibility for any of the "accidents," noting that "things went perfectly Thursday, the guards were not on the site of the festival, they were there only on the first day."

Many of those who complained of mistreatment by security guards cited examples of good natured interventions by officials of the Jerash Festival, who tried to minimise aggravation caused by the guards.

"At the entrance to the opera, a guard physically tried to shove me aside when he saw my reporter's badge, but an official from the Jerash Festival intervened and told the guard to let me in," a senior editor who was in Jerash Wednesday with his wife and children told the Jordan Times.

The general attitude by those interviewed was that "Jerash Festival officials tried to smooth the flow of the crowds with the least inconvenience for all," and others who visited Jerash Thursday conceded that "everything was very well organised, there were no harassments."



The camp at Rum



The dinner table is set at Wadi Rum, against a backdrop of illuminated cliffs

Jordan: Land of desert safari?

Rami G. Khouri recently took a safari trip through Jordan's desert. He filed the following report and photos:

JORDAN, land of sun, ancient history and... desert safaris. If several enterprising local companies have their way, desert safaris may soon join the growing list of activities and services which are available for foreign and domestic tourists. Last winter, the general manager of the Marriott Hotel, Haile Agular, and the director of International Traders Travel Services Company, Munir Nassar, spent two days criss-crossing the semi-arid steppe-like regions of the country exploring routes and destinations for possible desert safaris. Last month they ran the first experimental safari — a four-day, three-night trek of over 1,000 kilometres, nearly two-thirds of which was over desert tracks.

This was not just a romp through the desert, bouncing over desert tracks or sliding and sailing through sandy stretches; the trip was five-star all the way. The concept they are now testing out is to allow visitors to enjoy the extraordinary variety of Jordan's natural terrain and its antiquities sites, to experience the unique thrills of driving through the desert for hours on end, and then to finish off the day by arriving at a fully laid out tent camp with deluxe service — including lights, hot meals, a full refreshments and bar service, water, toilet, musical entertainment, fireside atmosphere, and private tents with mattresses, pillows, sheets, blankets and washing facilities. The only thing that seemed to be missing was the morning newspaper — though

with a bit more experience, that will probably be arranged on future trips.

The trip started in Amman at 6:30 a.m., and took us first to the desert castles area; we visited Hallabat, Hammam es-Sarah, Amra, Azraq, Kharana and Qasr Tuba, stopping for a lunch of sandwiches, fruits, brownies and hot and cold drinks at Kharana Castle. After Tuba, we drove for another two hours to reach Bayir — one of the most isolated and barren areas of the country, with nothing to see for a hundred kilometres in any direction. Only the desert police post — and an ancient water reservoir — stand as testimony that we were not the first people to visit Bayir, which has served as a caravan stop for thousands of years.

The next morning — after breakfast of scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausages, corn flakes, orange juice, hot coffee and a Granola bar for extra energy — we set off for Jafr, and then across country to Butn al Ghoul ("the belly of the beast"), from where we followed the paved road towards Mudawarra, in search of one of the wrecks of the Ottoman trains which were blown up by the forces of Prince Faisal al Hussein and Lawrence of Arabia during the Great Arab Revolt in 1916. We found the wreck in the Ramleh area, about 30 kilometres north of Mudawarra — and we also found one of the most beautiful areas in the Middle East: A vast, pastel land-

scape of soft sandy stretches, with different shades of orange abutting craggy limestone mountains and stretches of basalt ground cover.

From there, we returned to Butn al Ghoul and headed overland to Disi and Rum, following the phosphate railway through a rough mountainous district dotted with pockets of soft sand. After several more hours of driving through a magical landscape, we arrived at Rum, and spent the next two nights exploring the area from the comfort of our base camp deep within Rum. On the third day, we drove from Rum to Aqaba along a dirt track that passed through the inner reaches of Rum, emerging to meet the desert highway at Wadi Yitm, from where we drove the last 25 kilometres to Aqaba on the desert highway — though given the state of the desert highway, it seemed considerably safer and smoother driving on desert tracks.

The third day ended with a barbecue fish banquet on the beach at Aqaba — where the Marriott van and crew had arrived ahead of time to set up a comfortable tent, full refreshments bar and lunch. After a swim in the Gulf of Aqaba and lunch, we stopped for a fresh shower at the Royal Diving Centre, before driving back to our camp at Rum.

We had planned to drive from Aqaba up through Wadi 'Araha and over the hills to Beldha, to camp out the last night at Beldha, near Petra, though we decided to spend the last night at Rum, to avoid the extra work of breaking camp and setting it up once again. The three first days of trekking

had been grand — but tiring — and we decided to enjoy the fourth night at Rum, taking in a spectacular sunset, thanks to the assistance of the Ministry of Tourism's representative at Rum, Jamal Ashab, who, it is rumoured, has inside information from the Lord on the most beautiful places to visit in Rum, not to mention divine dispensation on how to prevent your

chocolate fudge over sweet English biscuits. Breakfast the next day was more of the same — the highlight being watching the chefs flip omelettes against a backdrop of sheet sandstone cliffs that, like us, had probably never seen anything like it before. The return drive to Amman took four hours, though several members of the party detoured for a visit to Petra.

By the end of the fourth day, we had driven about 1,000 kilometres, most of which was on desert tracks. It was often bumpy, sometimes hot, occasionally dusty, but always exhilarating. We all agreed that this was clearly a new service that should be

developed, for the fun of Jordanians and foreign visitors alike.

The logistics of trips offered on a commercial basis have to be worked out and refined by International Traders, the Marriott Hotel or whomever else ventures into the field. Shorter or longer itineraries may be offered, and different destinations will be included. But the fact of Jordan's potential as a destination for desert trekkers and desert safaris is beyond doubt, and at least two local companies have shown that they have the technical capability and the entrepreneurial spirit to pull off the incongruous combination of desert trekking in five-star luxury.



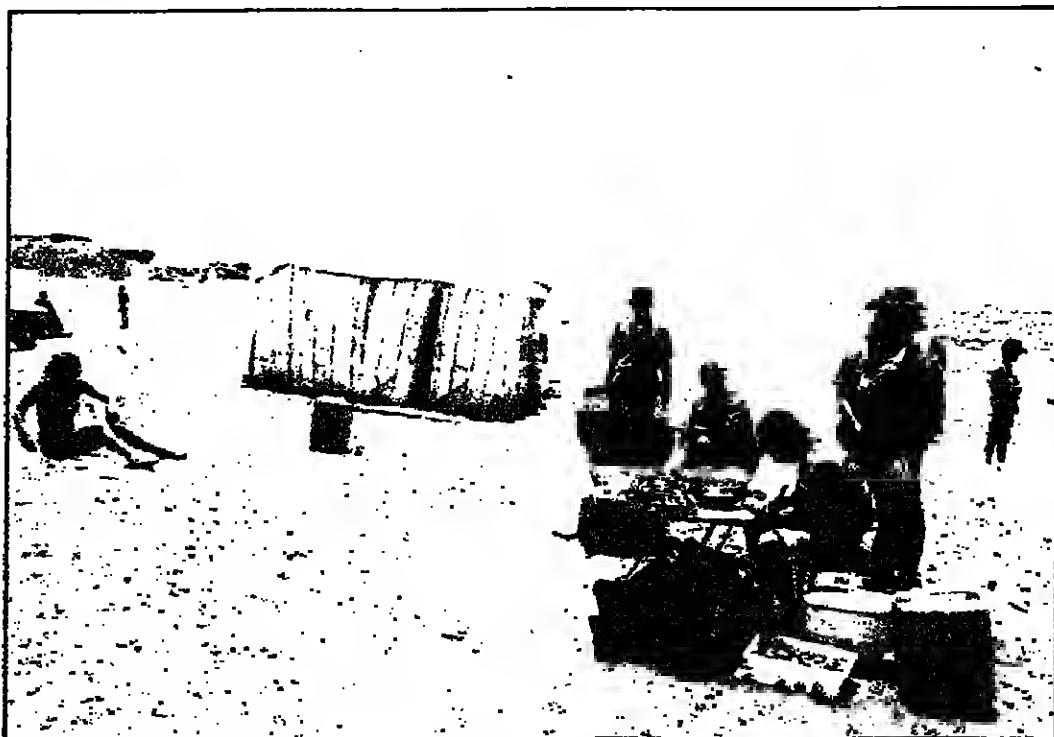
A sandy stretch near Disi — great for photographs, not so great for driving through



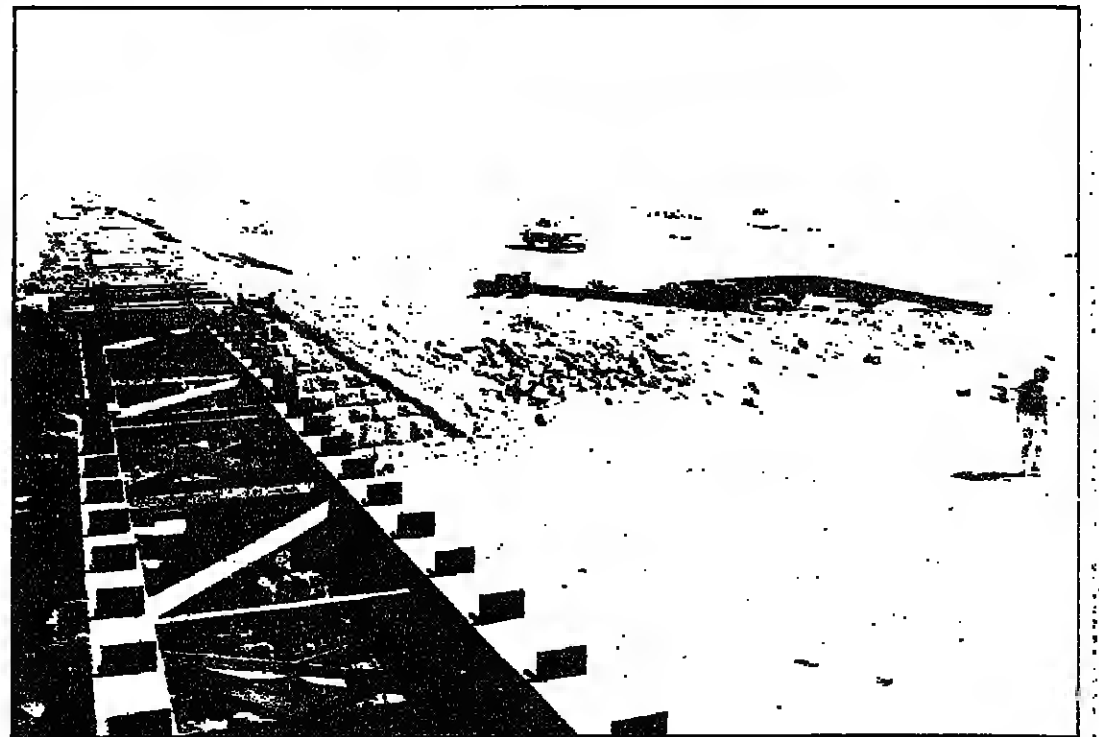
On the way to Bayir



Breakfast at Bayir



The tent and fish barbecue lunch at Aqaba



The wreck of an old Ottoman train, next to the abandoned track at Ramleh, near Mudawarra

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- * Local and Arabic music by Jordan Armed Forces Band at the Forum at 6:30 p.m.
- * Poets and poetry at the Artemis at 7:00 p.m.
- * National folk dance and music by Al Ballet Krsmanovic de Yugoslavia at the South Theatre at 7:30 p.m.
- * Jordanian folk dance by Beit Fajjar Folk Group at the Forum at 8:00 p.m.
- * Children's play by Haya Arts Centre at the Sound and Light at 8:00 p.m.
- * Modern Filipino dance and music by the U.P. Filipiniana Troupe at the Sound and Light at 9:30 p.m.
- * Zanoobia Operetta by Zanoobia Troupe/Syria at the South Theatre at 9:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Housing exhibition at the Plaza Hotel.
- * Jordanian-Palestinian heritage week at the University of Jordan. It includes handicraft, costumes, and embroidery.

FILMS

- * Video for children: Pippi Langstrumpf. Goethe Institute at 4:00 p.m.

POETRY

- * Poetry recitation by Dalal Al Alami and Mohammad Abu Mansour. Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's Al Ra'i: Israeli terrorists?

THE failure so far of the Greek government to identify the perpetrators of last week's attack on a Greek ship might be taken as preliminary evidence that such a terrorist operation, which was carried out in a perfect and professional manner, must have originated from the Zionist enemy, which has a long and colourful history of such crimes. Any terrorist act, however, can only be identified through its timing and objectives. In light of the escalating Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the increasing international support it has gained and the international condemnation of the Israeli oppressive policies, one can simply tell that Israel is the only party which has a genuine interest in such operations. Attempts by some observers to attribute this operation to the Middle East should not imply that it is the Arabs who committed this crime. The operation aims to distort the image of Arabs and to link them with terrorism, particularly nowadays when the uprising has proven to the whole world that it is the Israelis who are terrorists. The Israeli inhuman practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories cast no doubts on the identity of the terrorists. The Israeli brutality has surpassed the well-known terrorist regimes of South Africa and other dictatorial and racist regimes. The Palestinian uprising has proven to the whole world that it has been the Israelis who have occupied the Palestinian land, been biased, supporting the killer rather than the victim, supporting the wrong against the right and justice. It should be noted within this context that Greece is the current chairman of the European Community and has not recognised the Israeli entity and refused to establish diplomatic relations with it. Therefore, Israel is trying to offend the Arab-Greek relations by committing such attacks and attributing it to Arab parties.

Al Dustour: Strong ties

AT the conclusion of their 4th conference in Amman, the Jordanians working abroad supported Jordan's firm stand towards its kinmen in the occupied Arab territories and praised its role in shouldering its pan-Arab historical responsibilities, saying that such a stand is clearly demonstrated in the limitless support for the Palestinian people and in Jordan's active role on all levels to canvass support for the Palestinian uprising. The convocation at the conference in Amman asserted anew the strong and eternal relation between the country and its citizens, who have never forgotten their original roots and belonging to Jordan. These strong ties have been embodied through the royal directives which called for directing special care to the Jordanian expatriates. The expatriates called on Thursday for all Jordanians working abroad to contribute to the development of their country stressing that development of the country is the joint responsibility of all Jordanians, because the development plan needs the effort and contribution of every one of them.

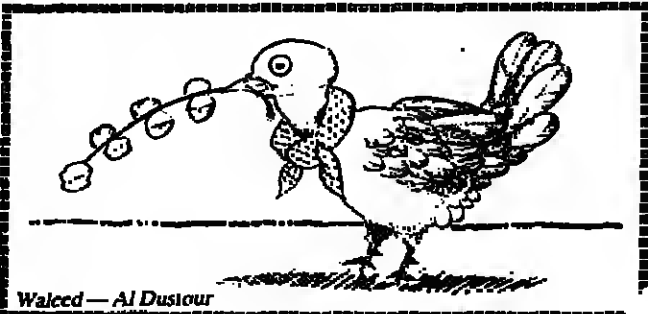
Sawt Al Shaab: Decreased mortality rate

THE medal that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has decorated Jordan with in appreciation of its great achievements in the field of reducing infant mortality rate and achieving high coverage of immunisation against child-killer diseases, is a source of pride for us in Jordan, because it demonstrates the government's interest in promoting child health and development. It is also indicative of the tireless efforts made by the Minister of Health and other parties to achieve such honourable results. UNICEF Executive Director James Grant's congratulatory cable to His Majesty King Hussein over Jordan's achievements, which is a certificate that we take pride in, demonstrates the Jordanian citizen's determination and resolve to enjoy the highly respectable status, which we all aspire to achieve. Jordan's recent achievement puts Jordan in the forefront of the region's countries as far as reducing the infant mortality rate through increased immunisation coverage and control of intestinal diseases. Jordan has been able to reduce the IMR from 75 per one thousand live births to 35 per one thousand live births. In terms of figures Jordan has succeeded in reducing the infant deaths from 8,600 a year in 1980 to 3,600 in 1986. This dramatic reduction in infant deaths should prompt us to work harder to achieve better results to ensure a better and healthy future for the coming generations.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Expand debate

THE U.N. Security Council's debate of the downing of the Iranian airliner by the U.S. navy opens up yet another chance for the international community to shoulder its responsibility of ending the conflict in the Gulf. Although we condemn the downing of a civilian plane, we should also point to the Iranian regime's continued acts of terrorism, which paved the way for the downing of the plane. Iran's insistence on pursuing the war with Iraq, its crimes in Mecca during last year's pilgrimage season and its killing of Iraqi prisoners of war and sending thousands of young Iranians to their death at the battle-front are part of Iran's crimes committed against humanity. The council should not settle to only by discussing the downing of the plane, but should rather tackle this issue as part of the on-going Gulf conflict, and should take into serious consideration Iraq's extended hand for peace with its neighbour.



Walced — Al Dustour

Al Dustour: Deep-rooted changes

THE uprising in the occupied Arab territories is eight months old, and seems to be continuing with more resolve and greater force than ever. A British social worker living and working in the Arab territory under Israeli rule said that the Palestinian revolt has been able to survive due to close coordination among all factions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the determined effort on the part of all people to confront the Israelis and to thwart their designs and conspiracies. The Palestinians, according to the British social worker, have been able to unify their ranks and to work independently, completely severing links between their territory and the Jewish state. This development has come about in view of the long sufferings and the repressive rule the Palestinians have been subjected to over the past 21 years. These deep-rooted changes within the occupied territories have prompted the Israeli leaders to admit that the revolt might go on for many years. The Palestinian revolt will continue unabated and regardless of the challenges, until freedom is achieved.

Iraq: Looking beyond the war

By Frederick W. Aselgard

IRAQ appears to have begun the process of adjusting to a new way of life in anticipation of an end to the Gulf war. This tentative conclusion results from an analysis of changes in Iraq's military, economic, and political circumstances in recent months. It suggests that the government of Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people, themselves, are approaching the end of a national trauma and the beginning of one of the most important (and possibly most difficult) periods of Iraq's modern history — that of economic reconstruction and social and political revitalisation, following the brutal war with Iran.

The catalyst behind this analysis is, in the first instance, the unexpected and impressive military successes Iraq has achieved in the past two months. First came the recapture of the Fao peninsula in April, in which a two-pronged attack by military regulars and Iraq's crack Republican Guard took just 35 hours to drive Iranian Revolutionary Guards from the psychologically vital, two-year stronghold at the southern tip of Iraq.

Iranian communiques, and recently some commentators in Washington, have claimed Iraq's success at Fao was achieved with the use of chemical weapons (CW). But U.S. government sources confirm that American intelligence has uncovered no evidence of CW use there. Nor did Western reporters, who were whisked to Fao right after the fighting ended, mention finding any signs of CW as they had at Halabja. Nor did Iraq go public after Fao with pictures and reports of CW victims undergoing treatment, a strategy which it has used effectively in the past. Thus there appears to be no firm reason to minimise Iraq's military accomplishments at Fao.

The second Iraqi military breakthrough occurred on May 25, in a 10-hour sweep of Iranian forces from Iraqi territory in the area of Shalamsha, east of Basra. Iraq's penetrations here in early 1987 were (after Fao) the second most significant military gains made by Iraq in the war, but were achieved at a horrendous cost in human life. Some have viewed the Shalamsha operation as even more impressive, since Iraqi statements and manoeuvres after Fao clearly pointed to a counter-attack in the Basra region. In addition, Iraq has since beaten back an Iranian attempt to regain the ground lost at Shalamsha.

Iraqi officials brush away questions about the emergence of Iraqi military prowess at a point so late in the war. Foreign observers, they suggest, have long given Iraq too little credit for years of stopping offensives involving hundreds of thousands of Iranian fighters, at least one third of whom were completely ready to give their lives.

Moreover, Iraqi leaders are said to have foreseen the demise of Iranian capabilities as early as Iran's takeover of the Fao peninsula in February 1986. Despite Iranian efforts to endow the Fao victory with mythical propor-

tions, it achieved, in Iraq's estimation, neither important strategic nor spiritual objectives. Iranian fighters mobilised with the promise of seeing the holy shrines of Najaf and Kerbala were posted to a dreary waste of mud and salt water.

Similarly, the attacks on Basra in early 1987, while threatening, cost Iran between 250,000 and 400,000 casualties in just four months of fighting, according to Iraqi estimates. This devastation was wrought when some five million Iraqi artillery shells were launched into the relatively compact area of fighting east of Basra. In the months following, Iranian efforts to recruit new fighters fell far short of their objectives. When political developments in various international fora (including the Arab League and United Nations) also turned to Iraq's favour, the leadership in Baghdad reportedly concluded that Iran had exhausted its material, political, and spiritual resources.

If conviction of Iran's incapability of pursuing another massive offensive spurred Iraq's innovative counterattacks at Fao and Shalamsha, this same conviction has failed to stir any similar creativity in Iraq's leaders with respect to diplomatic manoeuvres. After Iraq's liberation of the Fao peninsula, the Reagan administration pressed Iraqi diplomats in New York and Washington for signs of flexibility in Iraq's approach to implementing Security Council Resolution 598. Presumably, the purpose of such flexibility would be to give the U.S. greater leverage to deal with Soviet and Chinese unwillingness to impose sanctions on Iran for failing to accept 598.

Baghdad proved unresponsive to this suggestion. Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, made no further headway when he went to Iraq in late May to make the case directly to the Ba'athist leadership. Iraqi and American sources alike confirmed that after a vigorous exchange, the only result was that each side had a clear and emphatic appreciation of the other's viewpoint.

The Iraqi position was understood and formalised immediately after Walter's visit by the "Baghdad peace conference." This meeting involved over a thousand representatives of non-governmental organisations from around the world in an effort to mobilise support for the implementation of Resolution 598. It lasted three days and featured addresses by Iraqi leaders (including one by Saddam Hussein, read in his absence by Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan) and conference delegates urging world opinion to support an end to the Gulf war by backing the implementation of 598. While the final communiqué did not include some of the more extreme recommendations voiced in the conference — such as expelling Iran from the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the United Nations, the proceedings left no doubt that Iraq remains committed to a precise implementation of the provisions

of 598, according to the sequence in which they appear in that resolution.

With the end of a major military threat by Iran in sight, officials and non-governmental sources in Iraq seem clearly to be looking ahead to a post-war period of economic and political revitalisation. High ranking officials of the ruling Ba'ath Party confirm that the Iraqi leadership has begun to review ideas and plans for the country's development that were developed in late 1979 and early 1980, in the aftermath of Saddam's coming to power.

Saddam's accession to power, in this perspective, was the starting point of the second and more energetic phase of the Ba'athist "revolution" in Iraq. The months immediately thereafter and before the outbreak of war with Iran were reportedly ones of great ferment, as party leaders were in a constant state of debate, preparation, and review of proposals for economic expansion and political changes, such as the formation of the National Assembly (which was installed early in 1980).

An important implication of this nostalgic look back is the suggestion that it is the intensity of anticipated change from this period — and not merely the desire to insulate Iraq's population from the effects of the war — that has led Saddam Hussein to try and keep a balance in Iraqi expenditures on "guns" and "butter" during the course of the war. Today there is evident self-satisfaction in Baghdad that Iraq's economy, while strapped, remains fundamentally in balance, with acceptable-to-good prospects for growth through the further expansion of oil exports.

The dramatic economic reforms instituted by Saddam since the beginning of 1987 are similarly susceptible to re-interpretation as not just a war-induced emphasis on productivity, but as part of his longer-range vision for Iraq. Diplomatic sources in Baghdad seem to concur in the belief that these reforms — including a strong emphasis on privatisation (particularly in agriculture), increasing local productivity (in both quantitative and qualitative terms), and revising and extending arrangements for joint-sector initiatives — will continue in the post-war period. While musing on the future of these reforms, one source went as far as to call them "an economist's dream" and a significant outlier for a society emerging from the "burdens of war and decades of socialism."

The political overtones in this last remark are in line with the thinking about the implications of the economic reform programme. One high ranking Ba'athist authority said that while it is premature to speak about "formulas" for dealing with the post-war political environment, it is nevertheless recognised that steps in Iraq's economic liberalisation also constituted steps toward a more liberal political climate.

From the context of my discussion with this particular official, it seemed clear that the same idea had taken hold among Iraq's leadership: that numerous outside observers expressed: Namely, that the end of the war will bring with it significant

pressures, if not demands, from within Iraqi society that the political climate be opened up. Some of these outside observers have even gone so far as to suggest that this challenge could pose a greater risk to the continuation of the oppressively security-conscious regime of Saddam Hussein than the war itself.

Still other close watchers of Iraq have seen in the regime's actions over the past year certain indications that it is angling toward political change in a post-war setting. The indications in question are of a highly embryonic, yet definitely discernible nature. The most visible change was authorising the National Assembly to criticise the performance of government officials, including (theoretically) the members of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and President Saddam Hussein himself. Shortly thereafter, the Assembly began an investigation of the activities of the health ministry, which culminated recently in the sacking of the minister of health and a significant number of lower-ranking officials.

Conversations in Baghdad made it readily apparent to this writer that the health ministry was an easy target of such action. Nevertheless, as Iraq's second National Assembly draws to the end of its four-year term, there can be little dispute that it has been more active and effective than its predecessor. Furthermore, it was interesting that one private source in Baghdad speculated that as a next step, the National Assembly might take up responsibility for approving the appointment of cabinet ministers in addition to monitoring their work after being installed.

Another potentially noteworthy development is the establishment of "open walls" at all educational institutions from primary school through to university, as a place where students can express grievances under presumed anonymity. An interview at the National Assembly revealed that this body had at one point rejected (as too hard to enforce) a proposal for controlling the costs of marriage contracts in Iraq. A complaint was registered on the "open wall" of one university faculty about the prohibitive costs of marriage arrangements and the need to control them. The issue is reportedly in the process of being reconsidered by the National Assembly.

The oblique (but still interesting) nature of this last example is a useful reminder that assessing the meaning of such developments in Iraq is a tenuous undertaking at best. Yet being in Baghdad gave an ample sense that a basis is evolving for broad, significant, and constructive change should the Gulf war wind down to an acceptably low level of hostility in the relatively near future.

One cannot help but hope, after eight years of bloodletting which followed decades of debilitating political instability, that the possibility still remains for Iraq at long last to begin to realise the fulfilment of its tremendous natural and human potentialities.

Reprinted from the London-based Middle East International. The writer is the author of *A New Iraq? — the Gulf war and U.S. policy* published by Praeger Publications.

Japan displays new activist foreign policy

By David Thurber
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Japan's pledge to take an active role in the search for peace in Cambodia is part of a new, more political approach that the nation is taking in international affairs, Japanese officials say.

In the past, Japan's contributions to the world often have focused on economic assistance, and this year the country became the world's largest aid donor. But after several years of discussions in the Japanese government about the need for it to take a stronger, more self-confident diplomatic role to balance the country's economic muscle, Japan now has committed itself to a greater involvement in peace efforts in both the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, in Bangkok this past week for the annual meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), called for a series of steps toward a peace settlement in Cambodia, and told ASEAN foreign ministers that Japan will "actively consider" providing financial support for a proposed international peacekeeping force there.

Uno also said Japan will consider sending civilian personnel to a separate international team that would monitor free elections in Cambodia after the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops. Hanoi, which invaded Cambodia nearly 10 years ago, has pledged it will remove all its forces by 1990.

The financial support, expected to be sizable, would be the first major grant from Japan for an international peacekeeping force, foreign ministry officials say.

Japan "intends not only to expand its contributions in the economic field, but also to embark on new forms of contributions in the political and diplomatic fields," Uno told foreign ministers from Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia and Brunei.

Independent role

Since World War II, Japan has relied heavily on the United States for both military protection and foreign policy directions. It frequently has been cautious about taking too active an international role, particularly in Asian countries that still remember its aggression during the war.

But diplomats and government officials in Japan say a new generation of foreign ministry officials who have lived much of their lives in prosperous postwar Japan now believe the time has come

for it to play a more activist and independent international role.

A ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Japan selected the Middle East and Southeast Asia regions because it has close ties to both and feels it can make significant contributions there.

During a trip to the Middle East in June, Uno became the first Japanese cabinet member to visit Israel. Japan had avoided visits in the past in part to keep from antagonising Middle Eastern countries that supply it with oil.

Ministry officials say Japan also has offered to act as an intermediary between the United States and Iran.

During the ASEAN meetings, which focused on ways to achieve peace in Cambodia, the response to the greater Japanese role was generally positive.

"We as ASEAN welcome the efforts of Japan to finance the international peacekeeping force," Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila told reporters after the meetings. "Now we know that we are ready to talk to the Vietnamese in substance."

Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk told Uno during talks here that Japan's approach was "acceptable not only to Cambodia itself but also to other Southeast Asian nations," a Japanese foreign ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

But Japan's growing overseas role continues to raise questions in the region about whether the diplomatic activity will be accompanied by an increase in military might.

"Japan is an economic power, but it will never become a military power," Uno reassured the ASEAN foreign ministers. "We want to use our economic power to contribute to world peace."

Measured in dollars, Japan's defense budget now is the third or fourth largest in the non-Communist world, partly because of the recent appreciation of the Japanese yen, ministry officials say.

Last year, Japan abandoned a self-imposed limit on defence spending of 1 per cent of its gross national product, a move that was criticised by several Asian nations.

"We feel that we'd rather look at the positive side of this," Thai Foreign Minister Siddhi said, pointing to deeper ties between Japan and ASEAN and growing Japanese economic assistance and investment in the region. "Mr. Uno has mentioned that Japan was not going to be a militarist power. We welcome that."

LETTERS

'A night to remember'

To the Editor:

STANDING outside the gate at 20:30 hrs on Wednesday at Jerash, the word "stampede" kept coming to my lips, because unfortunately this is what we were suddenly transformed into... a body of panic-stricken cattle.

I am sure that there was a good reason for not letting the people in, but it would have been more "civilised" if someone had had the decency to say: "well folks we are sorry but you cannot go in before 21:00 hrs," instead of trying to intimidate and shove around innocent people.

Jerash festival is supposed to see Jordanian culture intermingle with other cultures but the image we gave of Jordan at the doorstep of our ancient city cannot but make me feel ashamed and apologetic towards all Jordanians and foreigners who were standing there too stunned for words, and those who made the effort to come to Jerash.

Yes it was a night to remember with a bitter sense of hurt, pride, disgrace and shame, even though Rigoletto was divine.

Muna Kassab-Nabeel

Deep concern

To the Editor:

I AM Italian, but consider myself a Jordanian also. I was born in Amman and my family relationship with Jordan stretches back to five generations, a relationship of love and respect. My grandmother is buried here, and I chose to come back to Jordan in my olden years because this is home. The above is an explanation for the reasons of my deep concern for some incidents that just occurred, and this letter is to apologise to all Jordanians and foreigners who were caught at the South Gate of Jerash between performance of Rigoletto. On Wednesday, July 13, on the occasion of the in fact had to fight our way in, being part of a dense crowd on the verge of a hysterical fit, facing a tired, unkempt, rough security force that had received orders and had to carry them out with very limited space for letting people in, and only one tiny prefabricated cubicle for the security search of women. One has to remember that approximately 1,500 tickets were sold. It was a nightmare.

I wish those foreigners and Jordanians I am addressing are going to forgive and forget the incident. This is not the true face of Jordan, and it certainly is not the face of its people, its army or police. One has always entered its borders with a sense of relief, because of its cleanliness, the kindness of the army and police, and their impeccable dress and demeanour. Could it have been certain is that a wave of frenzy swept over the place.

I am grateful to the Jordan Times for publishing my letter, and hope the organisers of this beautiful festival will see to it that the conditions that may lead to such incidents will not repeat themselves.

Flavia Romero

The case of Radwan Abu Ayyash: Muzzling Palestinian journalists

The following is a report made by Amnesty International on Israel's policy of administrative detention in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

Profile:

Journalist from Ramallah in the West Bank. Administratively detained on Dec. 8, 1988.

Amnesty International believes he has been detained on account of the non-violent exercise of his right to freedom of expression and association and that he has not been given an adequate opportunity to refute the accusations against him.

Amnesty International considers Radwan Abu Ayyash to be a prisoner of conscience and calls for his immediate and unconditional release.

Radwan Abu Ayyash, aged 37, is a resident of Ramallah in the West Bank and is a prominent Palestinian journalist. He is a senior editor at the Palestine Press Service, an East Jerusalem-based news agency, chairman of the Arab Journalists' Association and managing editor of the weekly magazine Al Awdah (The Return) which is published in East Jerusalem and is owned by the Palestine Press Service. Radwan Abu Ayyash often acts as a contact for many Western diplomatic missions and foreign correspondents in Israel and the occupied territories and was reportedly instrumental in organising the boycott by moderate Palestinian leaders of American Secretary of

State George Shultz during Shultz's visit to Israel in Sept. 1987. The week prior to his arrest Radwan Abu Ayyash had hosted a British parliamentary delegation to Israel.

The reasons for Radwan Abu Ayyash's administrative detention given in the order itself are that it was necessary to detain him for the security of the region. No specific reasons for the order were given.

In an article in The Jerusalem Post an Israeli security official is reported as saying that the reasons for Radwan Abu Ayyash's detention are that, he is one of the senior Fatah activists and he maintains connections with other Fatah activists both in the areas [he] occupied territories as well as abroad. He gets directives from Fatah, reports to it and gets money from it. All these actions are designed to harm public order (Al-Fatah is a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by Yasser Arafat).

The official is also reported as saying that Radwan Abu Ayyash had not been directly involved in violent activities and declined to specify what other illegal acts he is alleged to have undertaken, adding that the boycott of Shultz was "only a part" of the activities for which Radwan Abu Ayyash was detained. The Israeli security official is reported as stating that the detention of Radwan Abu Ayyash had nothing to do with his activities as a journalist.

Al-Fatah is one of the factions of the PLO and is a banned organisation in Israel and the occupied territories. Although

Israeli law makes membership of support for or activities on behalf of a banned organisation, such as the PLO, a criminal offence, the Israeli authorities chose in Radwan Abu Ayyash's case not to submit it to normal judicial process, but to administratively detain him without formal charge or trial.

Whilst Amnesty International is unable to ascertain whether Radwan Abu Ayyash is a member of the PLO or not, it notes that he has always denied working for the PLO, although he has expressed solidarity with the movement. Amnesty International has no information of Radwan Abu Ayyash having used or advocated violence.

Radwan Abu Ayyash was issued with a six-month town arrest order on 24 June 1984 confining him to Ramallah. He was served with the order following his attempts to travel to the U.S. along with 40 other journalists from around the world to cover the Democratic National Convention.

The restriction order stated it was issued because it was "necessary for security reasons" and because he was "a prominent PLO activist in this area, to the extent that he is working to achieve the aims of this organisation and has secret activities against the State."

In response, however, Radwan Abu Ayyash said: "These charges are completely false and untrue. I am a Palestinian journalist who tries to express the mood and real feelings of his people, the Palestinians, no more and no less than this... I am a Palestinian journal-

ist who advocates negotiations and peace. I have worked hard towards the realisation of these ideals... It is clear to me that the motive behind the town arrest has little to do with "security" considerations, but is instead part of a general policy by the Israeli government aimed at isolating Palestinian journalists from American and other journalists."

The reasons for Radwan Abu Ayyash's administrative detention given in the order itself are that it was necessary to detain him for the security of the region. No specific reasons for the order were given.

In July 1982 Radwan Abu Ayyash was arrested and questioned about a booklet in his possession entitled The Palestinian Journalist, which described the activities of the Union of Arab Journalists in the occupied territories. He was interrogated and asked to sign a confession stating that he supported the PLO, had published and distributed illegal material and had attacked military censorship. He refused to sign the confession and denied the charges. He was tried in Dec. 1982 and sentenced to a fine and a three-year suspended sentence. According to Amnesty International's information this was the first and last time Radwan Abu Ayyash has been charged or convicted of any offence.

Libya proposes fusion of five Maghreb states

ALGIERS (R) — Libya has proposed a union of five Maghreb states sharing a common flag, currency and defence and foreign policies.

The Libyan representative at the talks between Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania also suggested a common leadership, or "command council," in a plan presented after the meeting opened Wednesday, conference sources said Thursday.

Government ministers and officials from the five states, who were holding a follow-up meeting to their first five-way summit last month, each presented a plan for better regional cooperation.

The proposals are to be presented in a common document at a later summit.

But diplomats were sceptical that Libya's far-reaching proposals would receive support from the four other states.

By contrast, other proposals at the meeting were limited, focusing on increased economic cooperation, as well as free movement of goods and people in the region, delegation sources said.

Libya, which has pursued an unsuccessful policy of unions with other states in pursuit of an ideal of uniting the Arab World, suggested a common flag in green, red and white, emblazoned with stars and crescents.

The five Maghreb states would also have a common currency under the Libyan plan, the

Maghreb dinar, the sources added.

Details of the make-up and powers of the proposed "command council" were unclear, but the Libyan plan envisaged common foreign and defence policies for the five.

"We consider that unity is now possible in the Maghreb," said one Libyan delegate, adding that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi was concentrating on uniting the western Arab World as a first step towards full Arab unity.

Algeria and Libya announced last month that a proposed union between their states is to be submitted to their countries in September, but sources in both delegations said this would not be in the form of referendums, as at first understood.

The proposals for union would be submitted for public debate in national media, the sources said, adding that this debate would help decide what form any union would take.

Libya forged mergers with Morocco and Tunisia, which collapsed in 1986 and 1974 respectively. Qadhafi's other failed unions include ones with Egypt, Sudan and Syria.

Expert sub-committees are to be formed as a result of the two-day Algiers talks attended by the number two in Algeria's ruling party, Mohammed Cherif Messaadia, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Moroccan Foreign Minister

Abdul Latif Filali.

Qadhafi sent senior envoy Khouildi Hamadi and Mauritania was represented by senior government official Sidna Ould Mohammad Sidia.

The sub-committees would discuss greater cooperation in the institutional, economic, social and financial fields, as well as education and research.

They are due to meet in the next few months in the various Maghreb capitals before another high-level meeting is held in October, the sources said.

At the present talks Algeria and Tunisia laid most stress on economic aspects, the sources said.

Morocco emphasised the need for free movement of people in the region, possibly with a common identity card, and Mauritania made general suggestions for better coordination between states.

A communique issued at the end of the talks said a similar meeting would be held in Rabat Oct. 24.

Conference sources said Morocco proposed at the meeting the creation of a supreme council of the five heads of state, meeting annually with a rotating presidency.

It also suggested the creation of a council of foreign ministers, as well as a research group to study ways of achieving Maghreb unity, they added.

Beilin says Shultz plan 'valid'

MADRID (AP) — The Israeli foreign ministry's top political affairs official expressed support Friday for the Middle East peace plan promoted by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and said the next U.S. administration should take it as its point of departure to resolve conflicts in the region.

Speaking at a breakfast with reporters, Yossi Beilin insisted that Israel considered Shultz's currently stalled initiative "valid" and said the new American administration resulting from November elections should follow up on it.

Beilin, the ministry's director general for political affairs, began an official visit to Spain Thursday for a series of talks with Spanish Foreign Ministry officials on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has resisted the Shultz plan's call for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the seven-month-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories through an exchange of land for

peace. Beilin is a longtime associate of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the leader of the Israeli Labour Party and a supporter of negotiating an exchange of land for peace in the occupied territories.

Beilin said he believed no negotiated political solution to the revolt was possible until after the Israeli parliamentary elections scheduled for next November.

In an interview published Friday in Spain's leading daily El Pais, Beilin said the Palestinian revolt had enlarged the differences within the "national unity" government formed by Shabir's Likud coalition and the Labour Party led by Peres.

He told the paper both parties, however, rejected direct negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), at least until the PLO rejects "its terrorist positions" and recognises Israel. Spanish news reports said the timing of Beilin's visit was related to Spain's scheduled turn next

Jan. 1 to take over for six months the rotating presidency of the European Economic Community.

The Moroccan and Algerian foreign ministers recently visited the Spanish capital to call on Spain "to do everything it can" within the EEC and during its presidency of the community to push for an international peace conference at which the PLO would serve as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Beilin told reporters Friday he believes Spain, due to its traditional close ties with Arab countries, could play an important role in any peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On Thursday, diplomatic sources said Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez reiterated Spain's support of self-determination for the Palestinian people and an international peace conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict in a 30-minute meeting with Beilin.

Velayati rejects U.S. compensation offer

(Continued from page 1) eight-year-old war between Iran and Iraq and the council must do its utmost to end the conflict in accordance with its resolution adopted almost a year ago.

"Let us do something now to save this generation from the

No specific Shultz plan to visit region

(Continued from page 1)

would include 40 F-18 jet fighter planes.

The Senate has voted to block the Mavericks. Sheikh Saad said Kuwait was a peace-loving country and wanted the arms for self-defence.

"It doesn't mean we intend to invade any other country," he said.

Over the weekend, Kuwait announced an arms deal with the Soviet Union. "So," Sheikh Saad said, "don't be surprised when you read tomorrow or next week or next month that Kuwait also has bought military equipment from Moscow, or Britain or France."

He also was seeing members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to try to reverse the opposition to the Mavericks.

In another development, Bassam Abu Sharif, the PLO spokesman who called recently for direct negotiations with Israel, said Wednesday he has been invited to the United States by two non-governmental institutions to discuss Arab-Israeli peace.

But Abu Sharif, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said he was "prepared to visit Washington to elaborate further on my paper," but admitted that the State Department has not yet agreed to grant him a visa.

In an interview with the AP in Baghdad, Abu Sharif said the invitations came from the Washington-based Brookings Institution and the National Press Club.

Abu Sharif said the PLO's Executive Committee discussed his paper in Tunis last week and approved it on the basis it did not contradict the conditions for dealings with Israel — mutual, simultaneous recognition.

Japanese navigation scheme gets ahead

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will soon begin erecting advanced navigational beacons in a Japanese-funded scheme to help ships pick their way through dangerous Gulf waters.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry announced earlier this week that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had agreed to join the project, Tokyo's contribution to international efforts to safeguard Gulf shipping from attacks by warring Iran and Iraq.

Japan imports most of its oil from the Gulf and is the top trading partner of nearly every state along its western coast.

When the United States and Europe sent dozens of warships to the region last year, Japan came under pressure to help. Last October it offered to finance a \$10-million, British-designed precise navigation system.

Shipping sources said a team from the British radar systems firm Racal had arrived in Kuwait and begun scouting sites for the beacons, which emit signals to let warships and merchant vessels pinpoint their position with greater accuracy.

"They'll know exactly where they are at any given time," one source said. More than 70 merchant ships have come under attack so far this year by either Iran and Iraq.

The system will be especially useful in helping ships stay clear of known mines. Systems now used in the Gulf have a margin of error as high as half a mile, the source said.

Last year's naval build-up followed the discovery of dozens of mines in the waterway, Iran was widely blamed.

The sources said the solar-powered beacons, some 35 metres high and topped with red warning lights, would also help minehunters from the United States and five West European nations operate more efficiently by identifying exactly where they had swept.

Greece jails hijack suspect for 7 months

ATHENS (R) — A Palestinian hijack suspect, whose detention in Greece may have prompted a bloody attack on a tourist ship, was sentenced to seven months in jail Thursday for entering the country with a false passport.

A court banned down the sentence on Mohammad Rashid, 34, who is wanted by the United States for a bomb attack on a Pan American Airlines plane in 1982 which killed one person.

Greek police have been investigating the possibility that a guerrilla assault on a Greek tourist ship Monday was staged to blackmail authorities into releasing Rashid.

Nine people were killed and 98 wounded when guerrillas opened fire with sub-machine guns and threw grenades on the pleasure boat City of Poros as it neared Athens.

Lawyers for Rashid said they would appeal against the verdict and that he would stay in prison pending the appeal. Greek officials have said they are studying an American request for extradition.

China denies selling ballistic missiles except to S. Arabia

PEKING (Agencies) — China has assured the United States that it has not sold ballistic missiles except to Saudi Arabia, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday.

He told reporters that no agreements had been reached but the issue of missile sales was raised in his talks with top leader Deng Xiaoping, Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang and Premier Li Peng.

"The Chinese told me they have not made any sales of ballistic missiles to a country other than Saudi Arabia," he said.

China revealed in March that it had sold non-nuclear medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia. Western military experts said these were believed to be the CSS-2, an adaptation of the long March-1 rocket which has a range of about 3,200 kilometres.

The Los Angeles Times, quoting Western experts familiar with China's weapons exports, has reported from Hong Kong that a sale of missiles to Syria had been completed.

China has denied that it offered to sell missiles to Syria and has countered U.S. accusations that it

U.S. cooperation in technological and military matters.

On Thursday, Shultz met for more than three hours with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen for what the American side characterised as "a very good exchange" on such issues as Kampuchea and the proliferation of weapons sales in developing countries.

Qian had emphasised that China does not support the return of the Khmer Rouge to a dominant role in Kampuchea following the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

Shultz, in his talks with Qian and at a later banquet speech, spoke in general terms of the dangers of introducing sophisticated weapons into the Middle East and other unstable regions.

But U.S. sources said he did not specifically criticise China, as he did earlier on his current Asian tour, for selling intermediate-range ballistic missiles to Middle East countries at a time when the Soviet Union and the United States are eliminating such weapons from their arsenals.

"It is ironic," he said in his banquet speech, "that just as the major powers are making prog-

ress in getting their arms competition under some control, the developing world is increasingly burdened by this flow of advanced weaponry."

Qian reportedly told Shultz that China, which according to U.S. figures sold about \$2 billion worth of arms last year, sells only defensive weapons that contribute to peace and regional stability.

In another development, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres protested Thursday to Britain's new ambassador to Israel about its multi-billion-dollar arms sale to Saudi Arabia, a ministry spokesman said.

The meeting, a courtesy call, was Ambassador Mark Elliott's first with Peres since taking over the post three weeks ago.

Asked if this was an official protest, foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel said: "Peres used the word 'protest'. I don't think there is anything more official than that."

Israel says the latest British-Saudi deal, estimated to be worth between \$20 and \$30 billion, threatens its security.

Congressmen tell Shultz Iranian opposition group offers best hope

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some 153 members of Congress have written Secretary of State George Shultz that Iranian opposition offers the best hope of overthrowing Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"It is not our role to go to war with Iran," said the letter obtained Thursday by the AP. "We believe the ultimate solution to the Iranian problem must come from within Iran itself," said the letter. "The people of the country must remove Khomeini and the mullahs and replace them with a government that is more humane to its own citizens and

less belligerent toward other countries of the world." The letter was dated June 20, nearly two weeks before the July 3 U.S. downing of Iranian Flight 655 that killed all 290 people aboard.

The copy of the letter bore the signatures of Democratic Senator Dennis DeConcini and representatives Jack Kemp and Helen Delich Bentley, both Republicans, and Mervyn Dymally, a Democrat.

A statement from Dymally's office said that in the end 14 senators and 139 representatives signed the letter.

A Dymally spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said the statement included only those names because those members had approved the statement and that he had been unable to check the statement with the other signers of the letter before releasing it.

The statement said the administration of President Ronald Reagan had been trying to establish a relationship with "moderate elements" of the Khomeini leadership, but that the letter was meant to stress that "a long-term solution to the problems in the Gulf is more likely to come from popular opposition to government policies within Iran than through outside efforts to stimulate change."

The letter said the Iranian resistance had "told us that anti-

Khomeini protests have recently occurred within Iran" and noted that Iran had suffered reverses in fighting with Iraq and with the Iraq-based National Liberation Army of the Mujahideen-e-Khalq of Iran.

"The measured, yet decisive response shown by the adminis-

ICRC resumes south Sudan relief

GENEVA (R) — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Thursday it had begun its first major famine relief in two years in war-torn southern Sudan.

The area has been in the grip of famine, but the difficulty of securing assurances of safe conduct from both sides in a civil war in the south has prevented the ICRC from operating there since 1986.

The government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) approved a plan in late May under which food would be distributed at the same time in both government-held and rebel areas.

Spokesman Jurg Bischoff said a team of seven ICRC delegates left Kenya Wednesday to set up operations in rebel-held Kongor, and another team would leave the capital Khartoum in the next few

days for the government-held town of Wau. Each team would then establish operations in two other towns.

"I would call this a good beginning. We hope we can go on, if we get the cooperation of the parties," Bischoff told Reuters.

ICRC food distribution in the area collapsed in 1986 after the SPLA shot down a Sudanese civilian airliner and refused to give safety assurances for relief flights. Road transport has been risky during the civil war as well.

In addition, the government has been reluctant to guarantee shipments of food to areas outside its control on the grounds that it might fuel the war.

Under the ICRC project, unescorted trucks clearly marked with a Red Cross on a field of white will deliver food.

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Trade figures boost dollar

LONDON (R) — Better-than-expected U.S. trade figures sent the dollar soaring Friday and drew renewed open market intervention by central banks anxious to brake a powerful rally by America's currency.

The United States said its May trade deficit was \$10.93 billion. That was up on April's revised \$10.3 billion, but markets had expected a trade gap around \$11.5 billion.

Wall Street stocks scaled back early gains. But in currency markets, the figures were viewed as good news for the U.S. economy and as a signal to buy more dollars.

"The market was looking for an excuse to buy the dollar and it hasn't been persuaded not to," said Warren Oliver, U.S. economist at London brokers Phillips and Drew.

A rebound by the dollar from historic lows touched in January, which has accelerated in recent weeks, had already taken it up to around 1.85 Deutschmarks and 134 yen.

Traders cited a U.S. boom and the way U.S. interest rates had been nudged higher, giving a better return on dollar assets, to dampen a risk of inflation inherent in the boom.

Friday's trade figures sent the dollar on up to quoted highs

took the dollar as high as 1.8710 marks and 134.90 yen before the intervention calmed the latest hectic rally.

Friday's dollar highs compared with values around 1.72 marks and 125 yen five weeks ago.

And America's currency had begun 1988 in the shadow of last autumn's financial crash at historic lows — being quoted on January 4 at 1.5615 marks and 120.20 yen.

It has risen 18 per cent against the mark and around 11 per cent against the yen since then, and is now at its highest against the mark since last August.

It has not been as strong against the yen since December. The gold price in London's afternoon was being quoted around \$440 an ounce, somewhat firmer from the morning.

Such leading world stock markets as Tokyo and Frankfurt were closed before the United States announced the May trade figures.

In London, traders marked prices up but the rally was quickly ambushed by operators looking to any gain as a chance to cash in profits.

The FTSE index of 100 blue chip British stocks in London's mid-afternoon was around 1,856 points, down seven on the day.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average opened a third of a point down at 2,113.26.



Jordanian officials (left) review the social security system with Egyptian delegation: (Petra photo)

Jordanian, Egyptian officials discuss social security law

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Farhan Thursday held talks with a visiting Egyptian ministerial delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan, to organise Egyptian manpower in Jordan and discuss their conditions on the social security law.

Farhan said that the SSC covers all Jordanian and non-Jordanian workers and provide them with the same rights and privileges. He noted that the number of workers covered by the social security as at the end of June 1988 was 475,000 in addition to government employees and personnel of public institutions, municipalities and universities.

The law covers all companies employing five or more people, Farhan said. On inter-Arab cooperation in the field of social security, Farhan said that Jordan, in its capacity as chairman of the Arab Social Security Corporations' Group, has acted as a host for a meeting of directors during which it was agreed that an Arab union, grouping all Arab social security corporations be formed and that bilateral and joint cooperation be enhanced through holding periodic seminars.

However, he added, Jordan seeks to expand the umbrella of social security to cover countries of the Organisation of Islamic Unity (OIC).

Farhan said Jordan welcomed the establishment of an Arab social security system that guarantees rights of Arab labourers everywhere in the Arab World, and pointed out in this regard that Jordan gave equal rights to all Arab workers.

He further said that Jordan pays indemnity to eligible labourers who complete two years of contributory service before their return to their home country.

However, for workers who opt to leave the country before completing two years of contributory service, their entitlements could be transferred to them after the lapse of two years, subject to a written request by the labourer concerned to this effect.

The Egyptian delegation is headed by Ambassador Mohamed Ismat Rida and groups representatives for the immigration ministry, passport department, foreign ministry and interior ministry.

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U.S. lending rate rises

NEW YORK (AP) — Big U.S. banks raised their prime lending rate Thursday to the highest level in more than two years, a half-percentage point rise to 9.5 per cent that signalled more expensive loans for consumers and businesses.

It was the second boost in the key lending rate this year and reflected the banks' own costs of borrowing money, which has been rising steadily over the past few months.

The prime is watched closely because bankers use it as a basis for calculating loans to businesses and for determining many types of fixed and adjustable-rate consumer loans, including popular

home-equity loans. Chase Manhattan Bank in New York was the first to announce the rate increase and was quickly followed by other big banks, including Citibank, First National Bank of Chicago, Bank of New York and Manufacturers Hanover.

The last increase in the prime was on May 11, from 8.5 per cent to nine per cent. The increase Thursday put the prime at the highest point since March 1986.

Reaction in the financial markets was muted, partly because a rise had been widely expected.

The prime rate rise came one day after Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned he

would move to tighten credit if inflation started to accelerate.

Testifying in Congress, Greenspan said that the United States' central bank "at this juncture might be well advised to err more on the side of restrictiveness rather than stimulus."

There has been growing evidence that inflation could rise significantly this year. Low unemployment, strains on America's productive capacities and rising commodity prices caused by the drought point to higher consumer prices in the months ahead.

Many economists have predicted that interest rates would rise slightly this year but do not believe the increase will be dramatic.

Japan to increase foreign aid

TOKYO (R) — Japan announced its biggest increase in government spending for six years Friday to meet international demands that it give more to poorer nations, and to strengthen its armed forces.

Budget guidelines announced by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and approved at a cabinet meeting said there would be a 9.4 per cent increase in overseas development assistance (ODA) in the year starting next April.

"The increase in ODA was fairly large in line with Japan's international pledge," Miyazawa said.

The club of rich Western nations has demanded that Japan use more of its riches to help the developing world.

But Prime Minister Noboru

Takeshita surprised the group at a summit in Toronto in June by taking the initiative and pledging that Japan would lead a campaign to help some of the poorest countries wipe out their burden of debt.

Political analysts have linked Japan's new confidence in its ability to set international policy to its realisation that it cannot for ever shelter under the wing of the U.S. armed forces.

Miyazawa announced that the 1988/89 budget would allow military spending to grow up to 6.1 per cent as Japan continues efforts to increase its defence capability.

Aid and defence are among only six special categories to escape rules under which departments must cut spending by at least 10 per cent from the previous year.

The Japanese government has been trying for several years to cut back national debt, which in real terms is almost as bad as the huge budget deficit hanging over the United States.

For this reason, moves to reflate the Japanese economy by extra government spending to help world economic growth, which featured this year and last year, will be cut out next year.

The economy is expanding steadily and does not require additional measures to stimulate it, finance ministry officials said.

The ministry's guidelines provide agencies and ministries with a firm indication of how much they may ask for in their budget requests, which are due next month.

The budget is expected to be completed toward the end of the calendar year. The ceiling would allow total spending to grow 910 billion yen (\$6.8 billion) to around 33,890 billion yen (\$255 billion) in 1989/90.

Saudis deny oil output increase

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia issued its second denial in as many days Thursday over oil market talk that the kingdom intends to boost production to meet the bill for a recently signed multibillion-dollar arms deal with Britain.

The kingdom, in a statement distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency, charged that it was the victim of an "artificial information campaign... by oil brokers and their agents in the market."

"The kingdom strongly denies the truth of such charges and wishes to reaffirm its full commitment to its assigned level of production by OPEC," the statement said.

"We find that certain circles are still insisting on charging the kingdom with the fall in oil prices as a result of the British arms deal," said the statement attributed to an unidentified "responsible source."

Wednesday, Oil Minister Hisham Nazer issued a statement denying talk that the kingdom would raise its oil production to cover the cost of the deal for U.K.-made Tornado jet fighters, other military equipment and construction projects reportedly worth at least \$17 billion.

A "memorandum of understanding" on the Saudi-U.K. arms deal was signed on July 3 and reports stated that Saudi Arabia intended to pay for the arms with oil.

Ministry signs 2 contracts for Ruweisid pilot project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture Thursday concluded two agreements with a local consulting company and a joint venture company to carry out construction work worth JD 90,000 at the Ruweisid pilot project.

Under the agreement the local company will draw up the designs and undertake the engineering studies for the services complex, and the housing units for the

project technical staff and other personnel, while the joint venture company will construct two earthen dams of a capacity ranging between three and five million cubic metres to store rain water and provide drinking water for the area residents.

The agreements were signed by Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmoud and the two companies' respective directors.

Trade union protests hit Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan is facing a wave of trade union protests that bankers and economists say might slow down the pace of economic reform.

The Union of Accountants and Cashiers said Thursday it would start a five-day strike Saturday to press demands for improved employment terms. They said the stoppage would cost the treasury 43.5 million pounds (\$9.5 million) in lost revenue.

Members of 22 trade unions, spearheaded by the Union of Bank Employees said they planned to defy a government ban and stage a protest march, Monday against plans to privatise four state-owned commercial banks.

They threatened more protests if the government went ahead with its plans. State-employed agriculturalists have already begun a 10-day strike to press for better pay.

The protests followed the government's announcement, last month that it planned to privatise loss-making state enterprises, limit state subsidies to 10 essential items and lift subsidies from top-quality wheat flour.

The government said the moves were designed to revive the agriculture-based economy, burdened by a foreign debt of nearly \$12 billion, five years of bush war against rebels in the south and persistent drought.

The bankers and economists said the government's plans met key demands set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to give the go-ahead to major donors to help finance a four-year economic recovery plan.

They said, however, the Khar-

toum government had vet to take the politically-sensitive decision to again devalue its currency, officially fixed at 4.5 pounds to the dollar compared to 10 pounds to the dollar on Sudan's active black market.

Sudan last October devalued its currency by 44 per cent in a move that sparked street protests in which at least six people were killed. Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said Tuesday that while his government still hoped for an agreement with the IMF, it had no intention to devalue further.

The bankers and economists said that while opposition to government economic policies came mainly from leftist trade and professional unions and the small Communist Party, the popular perception in Sudan of IMF-inspired policies as the cause of economic hardships could widen the base of opposition.

The IMF is something of an anathema in Sudan, especially among the poor majority of the urban population.

Market forecasts had called for an annual rise of 4.3 per cent to 4.6 per cent and a month-to-month rise of between 0.1 per cent to 0.4 per cent.

The Department of Employment attributed the monthly rise to higher prices for motor vehicles, non-seasonal foods, gasoline and clothing.

The Department of Employment said its retail price index rose 0.4 per cent in June from May.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday rates					
Local sell/buy rates in Jds					
	94.71/	95.6	Saudi riyal	99.0/	100.0
Belgian franc (for 10)	94.71/	95.6	Syrian lira	10.9/	11.0
Dutch guilder	175.6/	177.4	Lebanese lira	1.05/	1.06
French franc	58.8/	59.4	Iraqi dinar	150.0/	153.0
Italian lira (for 100)	26.7/	27.0	Kuwaiti dinar	1310.0/	1320.0
Japanese yen (for 100)	275.2/	278.0	Egyptian pound	160.0/	165.0
Swedish crown	57.6/	58.2	Omani rial	101.0/	102.0
Swiss franc	236.7/	241.1	U.A.E. dirham	100.5/	101.0
U.K. sterling pound	618.4/	624.6	Absani riyal	240.0/	245.0
U.S. dollar	365.4/	369.4	Bahraini dinar	980.0/	985.0
W. German mark	198.2/	200.2			

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6820/33	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.2072/82	Canadian dollar	
	1.8545/55	Deutschmarks	
	2.0895/0905	Dutch guilders	
	1.5380/90	Swiss francs	
	38.76/81	Belgian francs	
	6.2480/2520	French francs	
	1374/1375	Italian lire	
	133.88/98	Japanese yen	
	6.3680/3730	Swedish crowns	
	6.7310/60	Norwegian crowns	
	7.0630/80	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	438.70/439.20	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market clawed its way back to a firmer close for the first time in three days, although brokers said trading was fairly lacklustre. The All Ordinaries index rose 6.3 to 1,622.5.

TOKYO — Prices closed down after a day of wide fluctuations as investors initially tried to shrug off concerns ahead of the release of U.S. May trade figures. The Nikkei index fell 170.29 to 27,913.79.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed off the day's lows because of short-covering by institutional investors ahead of the May trade figures. The Hang Seng index fell 12.26 to 2,740.70.

SINGAPORE — Stocks closed higher across the board on continued speculative buying and bargain-hunting in moderate trading. The Straits Times Industrial index rose 12.54 to 1,130.96.

BOMBAY — Shares closed mixed in poor trading hit by end-of-account considerations, with state-owned financial institutions the only buyers. Associated Cement dropped 4.5 rupees to 218 and Tata Steel 7.5 to 770.

FRANKFURT — Prices ended a quite bourse with modest net gains. The Dax 30-share index rose 4.19 to 1,191.40.

ZURICH — Prices closed little changed in fairly quiet trading, with most investors staying on the sidelines before the U.S. trade data. The Swiss index rose 0.9 to 887.

PARIS — Prices started the floor session firmer in very thin trading, with many operators taking a long weekend after the Bastille day holiday.

LONDON — Share prices were mostly easier in late trading but above the lows earlier in the session, as buying for the new account boosted sentiment. At 1430 GMT, the FTSE 100 was down 6.2 at 1,857.1.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks turned slightly lower in mid-morning amid weak bond prices and despite a strong dollar. The market had opened firmer on a slightly smaller than expected May trade deficit. The Dow was down four at 2,110.

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres	
Ministry of Supply	602121	Corporation	603907
Ministry of Finance	636321	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Communications	847391	Amman Chamber of Industry	664747
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662258
Income Tax Department	660151	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	642370
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	General Statistics Department	846171
Amman Customs Department	772181	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

Inflation rate in Britain rises to 4.6 per cent

LONDON (AP) — Britain's annual consumer inflation rate rose to 4.6 per cent in June from 4.3 per cent in the previous month, the government reported Friday.

The Department of Employment said its retail price index rose 0.4 per cent in June from May.

Market forecasts had called for an annual rise of 4.3 per cent to 4.6 per cent and a month-to-month rise of between 0.1 per cent to 0.4 per cent.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

UEFA reduces Michel's 9-match ban to 3

GENEVA (R) — Real Madrid midfielder Michel Gonzalez has had a nine-match ban reduced to three games. The European Football Union's (UEFA) appeal board Thursday also reduced a three-match ban on Real's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez to one match. A 75,000 Swiss francs (\$50,000) fine on Real for team misbehaviour was upheld. Michel's suspension, which would have kept him out of Real's entire European Cup campaign next season, was for abusing Swiss referee Bruno Galler after the Spanish club's European Cup semifinal second leg tie at PSV Eindhoven in April. Sanchez was banned for the same offence. The five-member board, chaired by Swiss Leon Straessle, heard evidence from Michel, Galler and Real Madrid officials in a 40-minute session. They reached their decision after a further one-and-a-half hours discussion.

Mortimore to manage Belenenses

LISBON (R) — Former Benfica manager John Mortimore will return to Portugal next season after a year's absence to take over Belenenses, the Lisbon club said Thursday. The 53-year-old Englishman resigned shortly after guiding Benfica to the league and cup double in 1987, an achievement eclipsed by the European Cup triumph of northern rivals Porto. Mortimore signed a two-year contract with Belenenses who finished third in the league and will join their more famous neighbours, Benfica and Sporting, in the UEFA Cup.

AOF to appeal to Cash

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Olympic officials will appeal to Pat Cash's patriotism in an attempt to persuade the former Wimbledon champion to play tennis for his country at the Seoul Olympics. Kevan Gospar, president of the Australian Olympic Federation (AOF), said he was disappointed by Cash's decision to withdraw from the Australian team but hoped he might change his mind. "He's dropped the ball on us but maybe it's not too late to pick it up again," Gospar said. "Athletes are always responsible to themselves first but I believe great athletes are also responsible to other people. I respect his decision as a professional but the problem could escalate with other young professionals modelling themselves on him and turning away from the Olympic Games."

Souness signs Everton's Stevens

LONDON (R) — Free-spending Glasgow Rangers manager Graeme Souness has taken his outlay in two years to seven million pounds sterling (\$11.8 million) with the signing of defender Gary Stevens from Everton. Stevens signed for the Scottish Premier division club for one million pounds (\$1.6 million) Thursday night. In his two years as manager, Souness has negotiated more than 30 transfer deals, bringing in top players such as present and past England internationals Terry Butcher, Chris Woods, Trevor Francis and Ray Wilkins. Stevens, also an England player, said: "I'm thrilled with this move. It's a big challenge and I hope I can rise to it. It also gives me a chance to play in European football."

Australia renews 1996 Olympic bid

SYDNEY (AP) — Sydney will be chosen for the 1996 Olympics instead of Athens, which cannot guarantee adequate security measures, a sports official said Thursday. Bob Rowland Smith, New South Wales state sports minister said Athens, venue of the first modern Olympics in 1896 was unlikely to be chosen as 1996 host city by the International Olympic Federation.

Baseball Standings

NEW YORK (AP) — Major league standings after Thursday games:

National League East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	54	34	.614	—
Pittsburgh	50	37	.575	3½
Montreal	46	41	.529	7½
Chicago	45	42	.517	8½
St. Louis	38	49	.437	15½
Philadelphia	36	50	.419	17

West Division

Los Angeles	50	38	.561	—
San Francisco	46	40	.535	4
Houston	45	43	.511	6
Cincinnati	42	46	.477	9
San Diego	40	49	.449	11½
Atlanta	30	55	.353	19½

American League East Division

Detroit	52	34	.605	—
New York	50	36	.581	2
Milwaukee	45	43	.511	8
Boston	43	42	.506	8½
Cleveland	46	44	.506	8½
Toronto	43	46	.483	10½
Baltimore	29	60	.326	24½

West Division

Oakland	54	35	.607	—
Minnesota	48	39	.552	5
Kansas	46	41	.529	7
City	42	46	.477	11½
California	41	47	.466	12½
Chicago	40	47	.460	13
Texas	35	53	.398	18½
Seattle				

Australia scores stunning victory over Argentina

SYDNEY (R) — Australia scored the most stunning victory in their history Thursday when they trounced world champions Argentina 4-1 to reach the final of the Bicentennial Gold Cup tournament.

Captain Charlie Yankos sealed the soccer's victory with two goals, the first a curling 35-metre free kick to put Australia 2-1 ahead and the second a penalty in the 68th minute which brought a violent reaction from the Argentinians.

Australian coach Frank Arok called the result the most important moment in the last decade for Australian soccer. "We never thought in our wildest dreams we'd score four against Argentina. Throughout the week we talked of scoring one, nothing more, and then we'd defend and defend," he said.

"I'm not saying we're world beaters but we've made the world take notice. World champions don't give away four goals too often."

Australia will play Brazil in Sunday's final in Sydney. Argentina will play for third place against Saudi Arabia Saturday.

Australia started in perfect fashion with a goal in the fourth minute from midfielder Paul Wade after the Argentine defence failed to clear a series of incursions into their penalty area.



Saudi goalkeeper Al Shater tries in vain to save a goal from Iraqi striker Ahmad Radi (left) in Friday's match between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

(Photo by Issa Abu Othman).

Uphill task lies ahead of Milan to become Eurochamp after 20 years

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — AC Milan's Dutch-powered soccer team faces a tough trek to Bulgaria as it sets out to end 20 barren years and become European champion again.

Spearheaded by three of the Dutch stars who won the European Championship for nations last month, the Milan side is one of the favourites to lift the Champions' Cup next May — 20 years after it last won the trophy.

Following Tuesday's draw for the three European club competitions, however, a tall first hurdle stands in the way of Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard and the rest of the team, in the form of the uncompromising Bulgarian champion, FC Vitosha.

Coinciding with other first round games in the Champions' Cup Winners' and UEFA Cup competitions, the two teams meet Sept. 7 in Sofia with the second leg in Milan Oct. 9.

"We know nothing of Vitosha (formerly Levski Spartak) and I cannot dare any prediction," said Milan's manager, Arrigo Sacchi.

While Milan's Dutch aces are in action in the opening round, their countrymen who play for PSV Eindhoven, the Champions' Cup holder, have a bye.

Another of the favourites, Spain's six-time titlist Real Madrid, has a comparatively easy path to the second round after being drawn against Norwegian champion Moss FK.

The first round of the Champions' Cup also has thrown up a clash of two big European soccer names, Honved of Budapest and Glasgow Celtic, while another eye-catching pairing is East Germany's Dynamo Berlin against its West German neighbour, Werder Bremen.

Porto, who won the trophy in 1987, faces the Finnish champion HJK Helsinki, while IFK Goteborg, which lifted the UEFA Cup two seasons ago and also is seeded, should advance past Pezoporikis Larnaca of Cyprus.

In the Cup Winners' Cup, holder FC Mechelen of Belgium,

which upset Ajax in last year's final, should progress to the second round at the expense of neighbouring Avenir Beggen of Luxembourg.

Mighty Barcelona, which won the Spanish Cup despite an indifferent season in the league, must travel to Iceland for the first leg of its first round match-up with Fram Reykjavik.

Barcelona, one of the world's glamour clubs, was the team fans of Derry City wanted to draw. Instead, it will cross the Irish sea to play Cardiff City.

In the UEFA Cup, West German holder Bayer Leverkusen faces Belenenses of Lisbon in the first round, while Italy's Napoli, featuring Argentinian ace Diego Maradona, is paired with Paok Saloniki of Greece.

West German powerhouse Bayern Munich has a first round game against Legia of Warsaw, while Italy's Juventus, another of Europe's biggest names, faces the comparative unknown force of Otelul Galati of Romania.

Mecir bows to Muster

STUTTGART, West Germany (Agencies) — Thomas Muster, the impressive young Austrian tennis player who won the U.S. Pro Championship in Boston Sunday, eliminated top seed Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia from the \$350,000 Stuttgart Grand Prix tournament Thursday.

He beat Mecir, a Wimbledon semifinalist two weeks ago, 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) in a third-round baseline duel which lasted two hours 12 minutes. Muster, 20, defeated 15th seed Jordi Arrese of Spain in the second round.

Muster, who said his win over Mecir was important but less so than his victory over American Lawson Duncan in the U.S. Pro final, now plays ninth seed Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina in the quarterfinals.

Perez-Roldan beat eighth seed Emilio Sanchez of Spain 6-4, 6-3 in this third-round match Thursday.

Muster credited his recent success to an improved attitude and mental training. He concentrated on returning the ball and paid no attention to who he was playing. "I used to be scared playing against top people," he said. "Now I know I can beat anybody."

Muster, whose groundstrokes are among the heaviest on the Grand Prix circuit, won the first three games to establish control of the opening set. In the second, he was 2-4 down but broke back immediately and won on his second match point.

McNeil beats Frazier

In Newport, Rhode Island, second-seeded Lori McNeil overcame five service breaks Thursday and defeated 15-year-old Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-4, in the second round of the \$200,000 Virginia Slims of Newport tennis tournament.

Lea Antonoplis upset seventh-seeded Gretchen Magers 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3. Antonoplis is ranked No. 151 in the world, while Magers is ranked No. 52.

Threat of breakaway league recedes

LONDON (AP) — The prospect of England's top soccer clubs forming a breakaway "super-league" receded Thursday as officials thought over improved deals concerning TV rights.

But they hinted that the arrival of a slumped-down English Premier Division of around 12 teams instead of 20 might not be far away.

The fear that ten elite teams might break away from the 92-strong English Football League arose when they began private negotiations with the Independent TV companies (ITV).

The league's management committee, which negotiates for all 92 clubs, agreed a £39 million (\$66.3 million) deal with the publicly-funded British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

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Jordan reserves semifinal berth

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanians regained their "lost pride" Thursday evening by edging veteran Algerians (2-1), and won a Group B ticket to the semifinals of the Fifth Arab Soccer Championship. Lebanon stayed on track, within Group A, to the top of the ten-country tournament and Syria topped Group B.

For Jordan, it was a feat long overdue, which could have otherwise signalled the end of the host country's talented squad, having lost to young Kuwaitis (1-0) and tied inexperienced Bahrainis (0-0).

The Iraqis overpowered the Saudis (2-0) Friday evening, a day after the Saudis received their first setback when they lost (1-0) to Lebanon. Jordan stepped up the pace from the early beginning and dominated the field for most of the match, to the cheers of approximately 25,000 capacity crowd at the Amman International Stadium. The midfielders produced a number of scoring chances to the attackers who failed to take advantage of them and all attempts in the first half went in shambles.

Nari Yadahe gave Jordan its lead in the 61st minute following ground, short passes and Jihad Abdul Mune' sealed the victory in the 75th minute. Lgroud Rashid gave Algeria its lone goal just before Jordan's second score. Lebanon beat Saudi Arabia (1-0) Wednesday evening, bringing to 3 its overall points from two heats. They had tied the Iraqis (1-1), the leading hopefuls to retain the cup they snatched in Ta'ef, Saudi Arabia, in 1985.

The young, fresh Lebanese displayed a flowing style and proved to match for the Saudis' fitness, speed and manoeuvrability.

Following Jordan's and Lebanon's triumphs over the weekend,

the tournament took a new turn. The scope of competition for the cup widened to include teams of a lesser stardom, both regionally and internationally.

Mahmoud Hmoud scored Lebanon's goal with a powerful header in the 81st minute.

On Thursday evening, Syria stopped a Kuwaiti tide through a (1-0) victory which earned them a place in the semifinals. The goal came in the 81st minute through a header by Abdul Qader Khardagili. The Syrians dominated the field in the first half and most of the second half.

Iraq's two goals Friday came in the first half and they maintained control throughout the second half pressuring the Saudis in their defence zone.

Lebanon and Egypt, from Group A, were playing late Friday and both teams have the chance to stay in the race to the semifinals.

Iraq now tops Group A with four points from three heats. Lebanon and Egypt each has three points from two meets. Tunisia netted two points from three matches and Saudi Arabia retained its one point from two games.

Group B is led by Syria which reserved five points from three games. Algeria follows with four points from four meets and Jordan has four points from three matches. Kuwait and Bahrain each netted two points from three games.

NHL Devils hopeful of signing Soviet star

NEW YORK (R) — Soviet captain Viacheslav Fetisov will be in a New Jersey Devils uniform next season in the considered opinion of the National Hockey League (NHL) club's general manager.

Fetisov, four times voted the best defenceman at the World Ice Hockey Championships, would be the first Soviet player to leave for North America with his country's blessing.

The Devils' Lou Lamoriello travelled to Moscow last month to try and conclude a deal with Fetisov and came close, but was told he would be summoned back after a few more details were ironed out.

"It seems as though that they are still going to stay with what they said — they will release him," Lamoriello said from his New Jersey office in a telephone interview Wednesday. "...it is just a matter of getting everything such that they are convinced this is the right thing to do."

"But there is nothing negative. Everything is very positive. I feel he will be in a Devils uniform (for the 1988-89 season). That was the way I felt when I left there. I have

no reason to think otherwise... he is very keen to play with the Devils."

The 29-year-old was captain of the gold medal-winning Soviet team at the Calgary Olympics. The Devils have the right to sign him if he is allowed to leave — something the Russians said they would do during the Winter Olympics in February. He is currently a member of the Soviet Central Army team.

"They (the Soviet Ice Hockey Federation) have made a decision that Fetisov will be the first player to come over," said Lamoriello. "If everything goes all right, others will probably follow."

The Devils also have rights to another Russian star defenceman, Alexander Kasatonov.

Lamoriello, however, injected a note of caution. "Because there is no precedent, we can't be sure it's definite until it's been finalised."

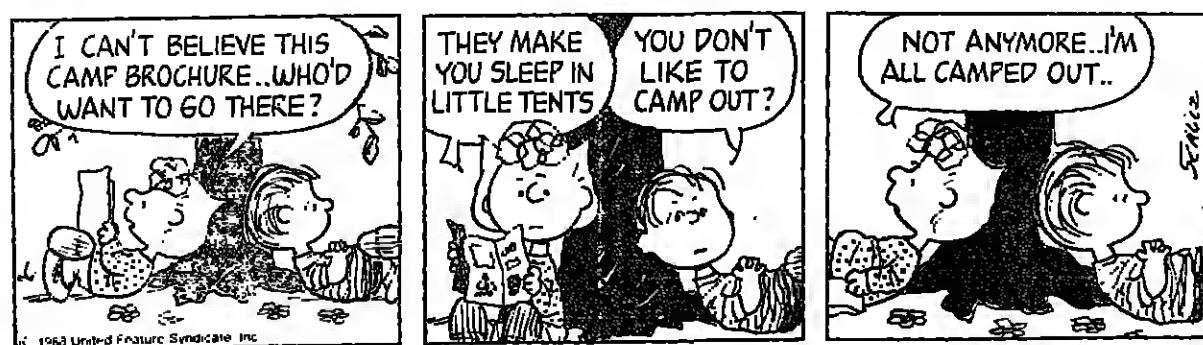
Fetisov's signing could boost the Devils' standing in the NHL, in which the club reached the Stanley Cup semifinals this year for the first time in its history.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

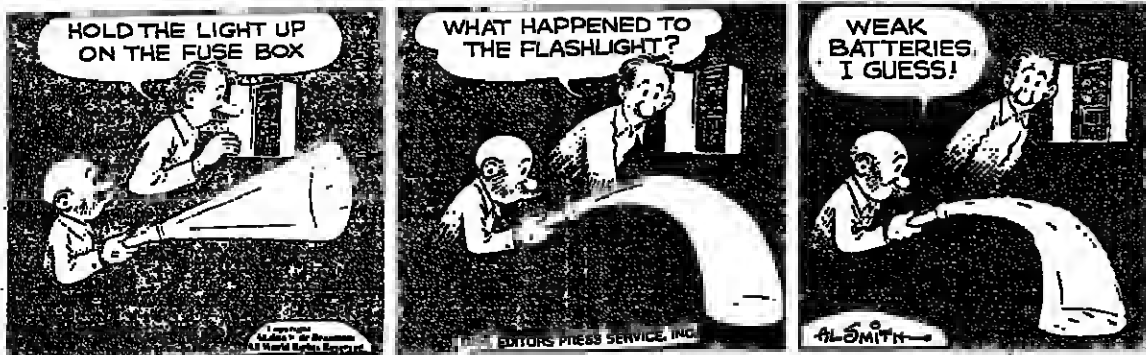


"A new organ-donor card. When you're gone I want to give your bad breath to a needy skunk."

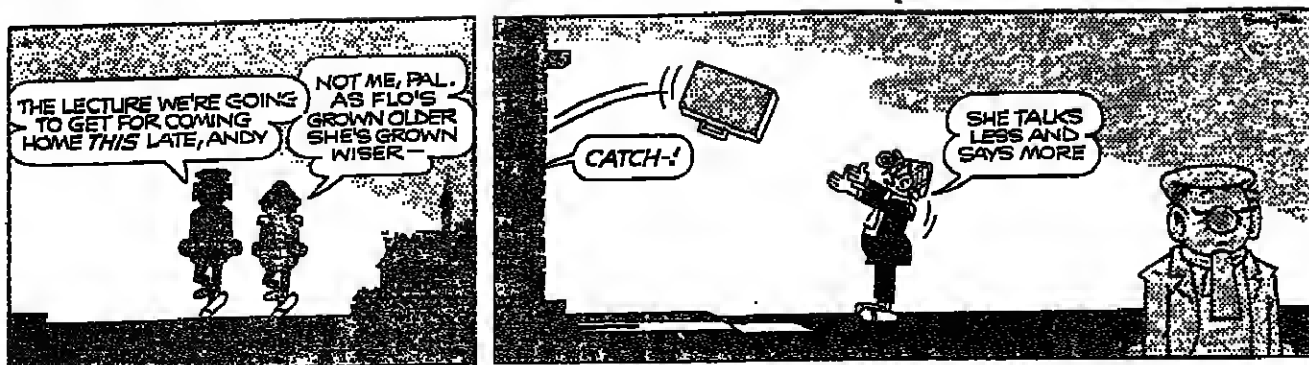
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



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The Ministry of Supply of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is inviting International Firms specialised in manufacturing, supply, erection and commissioning of Grain Silo installations as the leading main contractors to obtain prequalification forms for the construction, equipping and commissioning of Grain Silo Extension Projects in Juwaleh and in Aqaba.

The main contractors are required to name local contractors as sub-contractors to do part of the work. These local subcontractors shall be classified in first grade "Buildings."

The Prequalification forms may be obtained from the Government Tenders Directorate at the Ministry of Public Works during office hours, against the payment of nonrefundable fee of JD 50, between the hours of 10.00 and 14.00 as of July 15, 1988.

Completed forms must be returned to the same office not later than 1.30 afternoon on Aug. 17.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Director, Government Tenders Directorate

